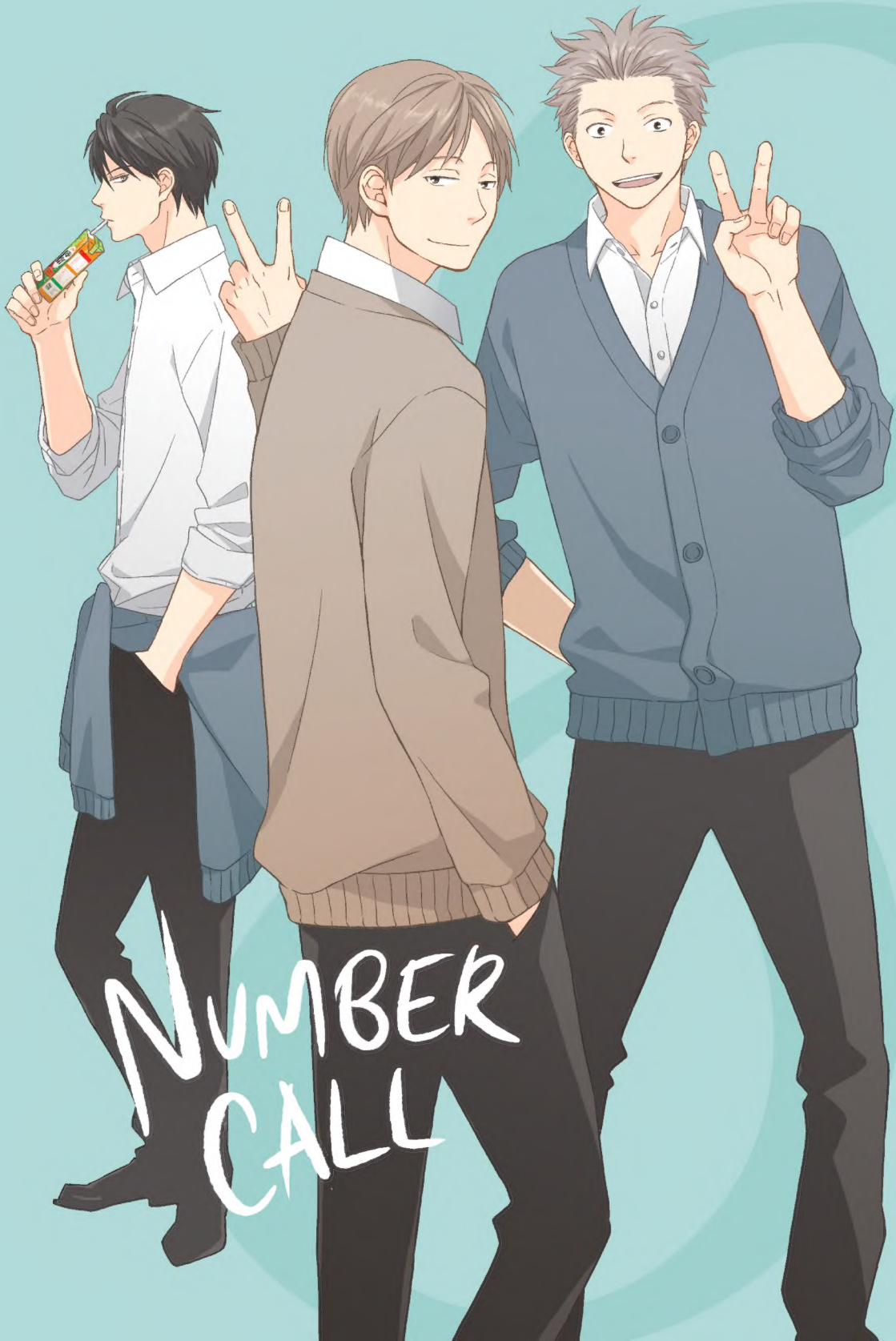
NUMBER CALL
NAGISA FURUYA


NUMBER
CALL

CONTENTS

Call 1
003

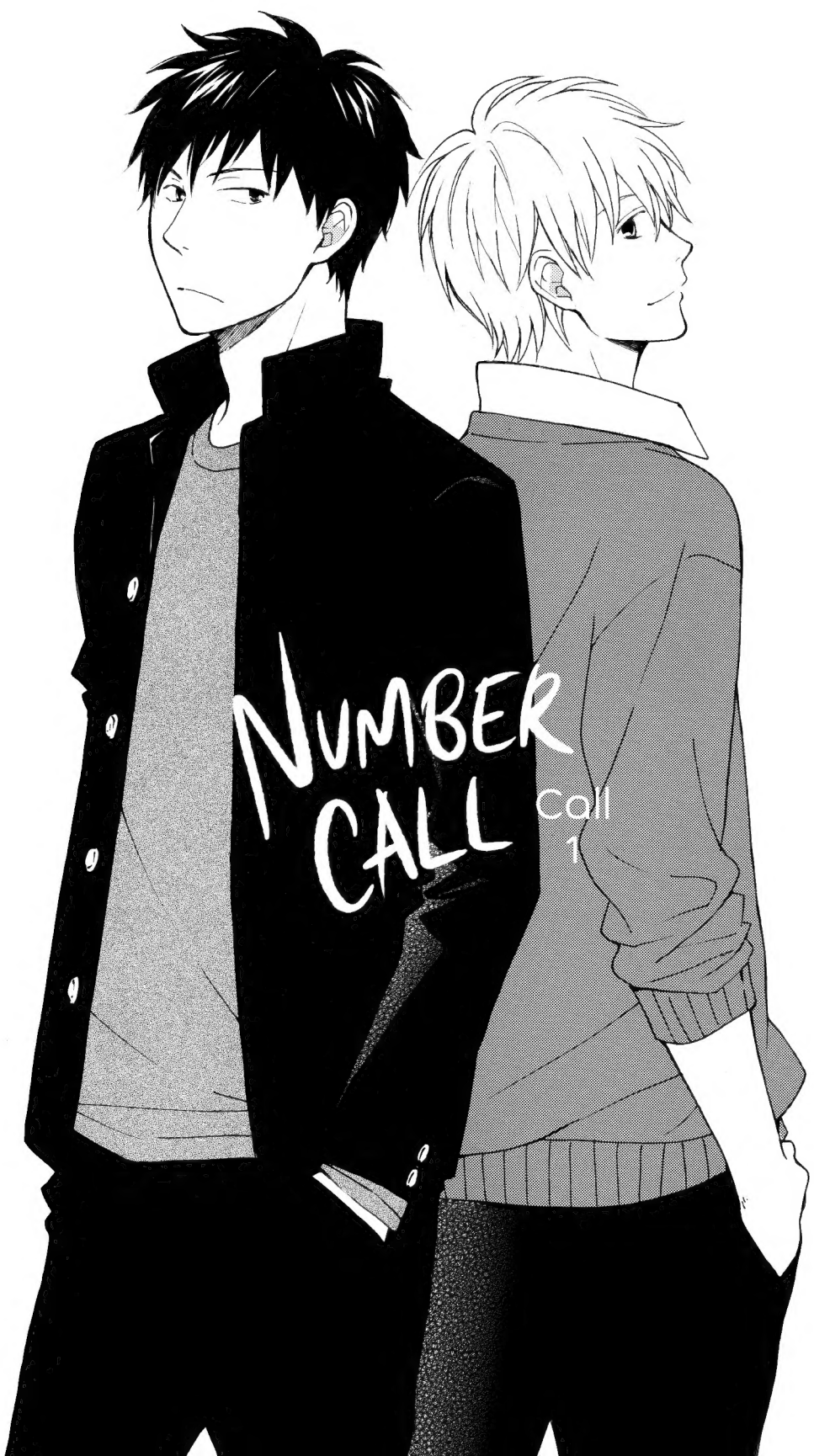
Call 2
035

Call 3
067

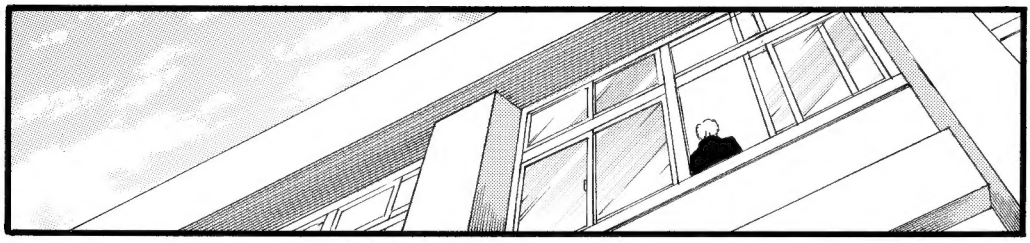
Call 4
101

Call 5
133

Number Recall
170


NUMBER CALL
Call 1

I'M OLDER NOW, BUT PEOPLE STILL TEASE ME FOR IT...



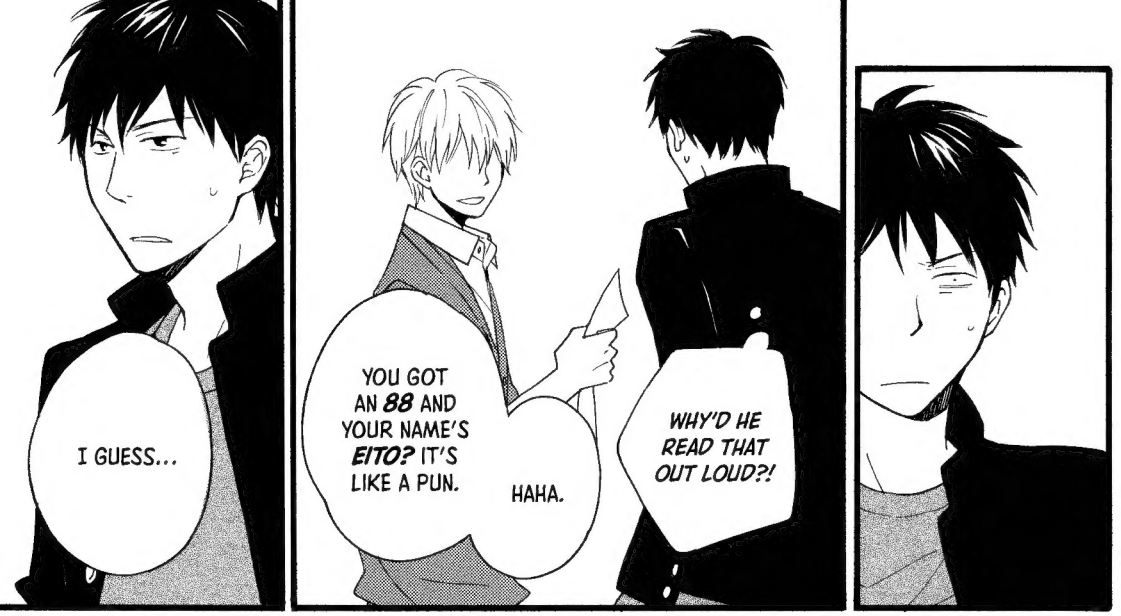
...AND HONESTLY, I'M **SICK OF IT.**

BWA HA HA HA!
OF COURSE YOU DID, EIGHT-BOY!
YOU SCORED AN 88 IN THREE OUT OF FIVE SUBJECTS?!
DUDE! DID I SAY YOU COULD LOOK AT THOSE?!
AND HEY, IT'S KINDA ANNOYING THAT YOU'RE PRETTY SMART.
?!
THIS IS WHY YOU'RE SUCH A HALF-ASS.
YOU SHOULD'VE GOTTEN AN 88 IN EVERYTHING, THOUGH. THREE JUST DOESN'T CUT IT.
YOU'RE ANNOYED?!
YOU LOUDMOUTH! NOW EVERYONE KNOWS!
BECAUSE I KNEW YOU'D MAKE FUN OF ME!
FINE, FINE. I'LL GIVE 'EM BACK, ONE BY—
FLAP
FLAP
WHY ARE YOU SO WORKED UP OVER SOME TEST SCORES?
OH, GIVE IT A REST.
AND DON'T GO THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE'S DESKS.
HEY. I STUDIED HARD FOR THOSE TESTS, YOU JERK.

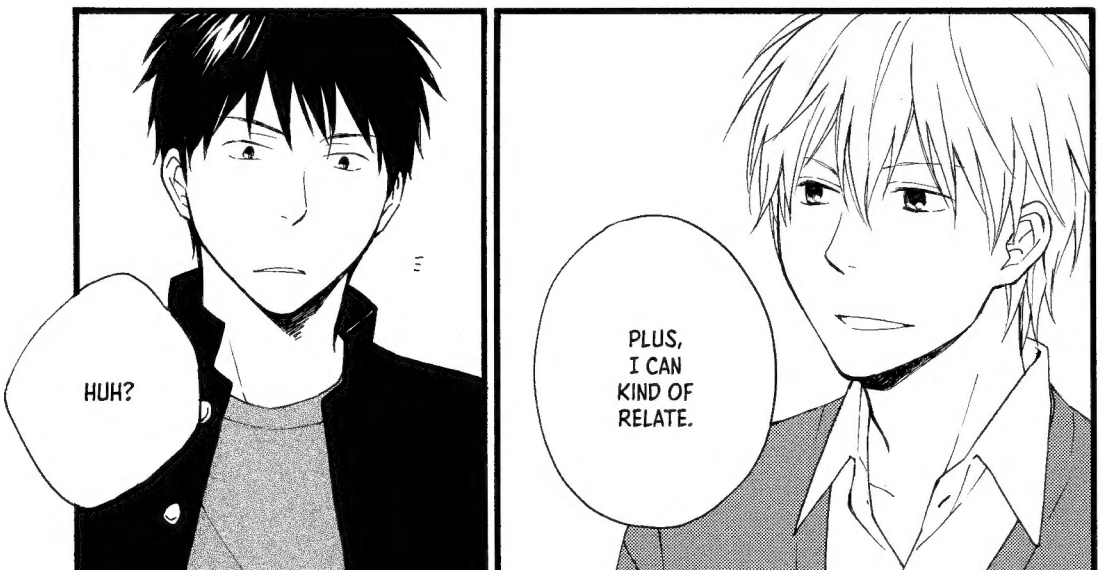
WOOSH
OOPS.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT FACE!
ARE YOU FREAKING KIDDING ME?!
...
OUCH!
THUNK
THERE IT IS.
AT LEAST IT DIDN'T GET BLOWN AWAY SOMEWHERE AWKW—

OH.
HEY, SORRY!
I'M COMING DOWN TO GET THAT! COULD YOU JUST LEAVE IT SOMEWHERE?
UH...

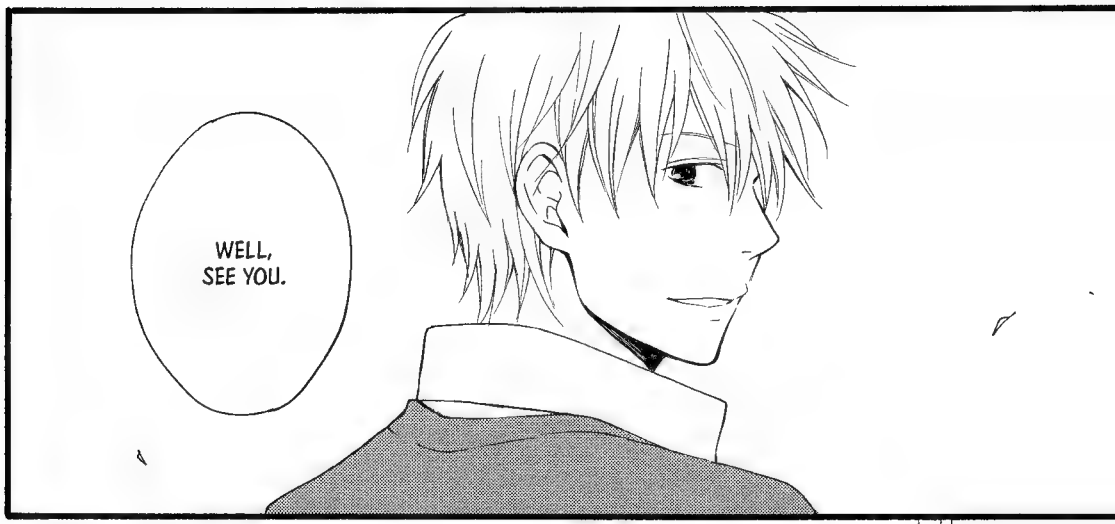
ZSH
HUH?
WHY'D HE WAIT FOR ME?
UH, THANKS FOR HANGING ON TO THAT...
番
氏名
橘映人
88
YOU GOT AN 88 IN JAPANESE HISTORY.
EITO TACHIBANA.


I GUESS...
YOU GOT AN 88 AND YOUR NAME'S EITO? IT'S LIKE A PUN.
HAHA.
WHY'D HE READ THAT OUT LOUD?!

OKAY...
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BLOW AWAY AGAIN IF I PUT IT DOWN.
UH, DID HE STICK AROUND JUST TO SAY THAT?
IS HE MAKING FUN OF ME?


HUH?
PLUS, I CAN KIND OF RELATE.

UH?
OH.
THANKS.
WAIT, WHAT?
HERE YOU GO.

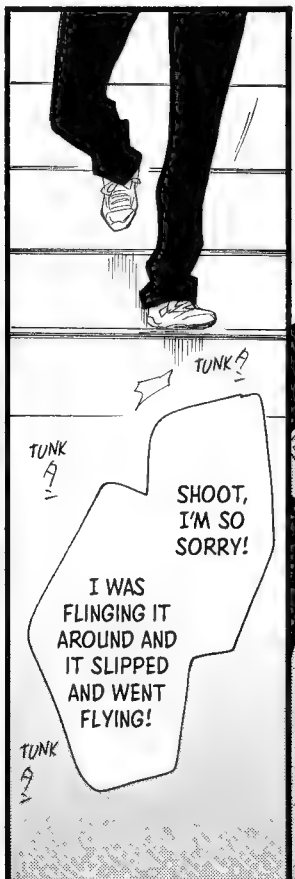

WELL, SEE YOU.

HE CAN RELATE...?
TO WHAT?
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT...?

WEIRDO.
SQUEAK
HEY, EITO!
I'VE GOTTA GO GIVE THIS BACK TO A FRIEND. I'LL MEET YOU DOWNSTAIRS!
'KAY!
OOPS.
I FOR-GOT TO GIVE THIS MANGA BACK.

?
WATCH OUT!
はﾊﾞ
WHOA!
ち
SLAP

ARE YOU OKA–


TUNK
TUNK
SHOOT, I'M SO SORRY!
I WAS FLINGING IT AROUND AND IT SLIPPED AND WENT FLYING!
TUNK

...?!
THROB
THROB

AREN'T YOU THE GUY WITH THE TEST FROM THE OTHER DAY?
THANKS FOR THAT.
OH.
HEY!
WE BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER AGAIN.
NAH, I CAUGHT IT JUST IN TIME, SO I'M–
WAIT, YOU'RE CALLING ME MR. EIGHT?
BUT DIDN'T IT HIT YOU? YOU OKAY?
IT WOULD'VE BEEN A HUGE MESS IF THIS SPILLED ON THE FLOOR. THANKS, MR. EIGHT.
THANKS A BUNCH.
TUNK
TUNK
HEY!
OH, THERE YOU ARE.
UH-HUH...
YEAH. IT WAS TOO GOOD TO PASS UP.

MR. MOUNTAIN-OF-HOMEWORK WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
HACHI!

OKAY, I'LL GO FIND HIM.
THANKS, MAN.
DUNNO. BUT IT SOUNDED LIKE IT COULD WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW IF YOU'D LEFT ALREADY.
WONDER WHAT HE WANTS.
WHAT, REALLY?

BYE.
THANKS FOR CATCHING THIS.

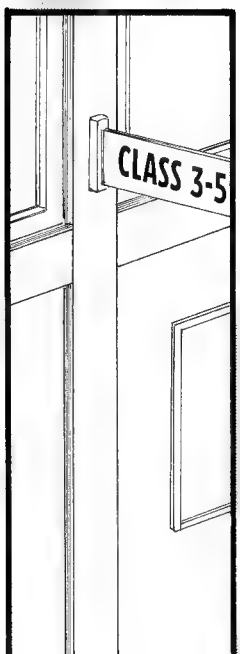
squish

NO PROBLEM. SEE YA, HACHI.
YUP. SEE YA TOMOR-ROW!

*Hachi means "eight" in Japanese.

DID HE SAY "HACHI"?!

...


CLASS 3-5

TOMOYA HATTA*.
HE'S IN CLASS 3-A, IN THE SCIENCE TRACK.
BIRTHDAY, OCTOBER 8TH.
LEMME SEE... HIS NICKNAME IS "HACHI."
HE'S GREAT AT DOING MATH IN HIS HEAD—

*Hatta has the kanji character for "eight" in it.

YOUR REPLY'S NICE AND ENERGETIC, BUT WHY'D YA THINK THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA?!
GUNT
WELL! YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WANTED TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HIM THE OTHER DAY, SO I LOOKED INTO HIM, BEING THE NICE GUY THAT I AM!

JUST LAST MONTH YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE A NEWS ANCHOR.
ONLY BECAUSE I WANNA BE A DETECTIVE SOMEDAY!
PEOPLE CHANGE, EITO. IT'S HUMAN NATURE.
JEEZ, YOU'RE THE WORST!
I NEVER ASKED YOU TO DO THAT! AND WHAT, YOU WERE SPYING ON ME?!
I KNEW I SHOULD'VE GONE TO A DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOL ...
I'M NOT MESSING WITH YOU. I'M JUST POKING FUN.
DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED OF MESSING WITH ME?
NOPE, YOU'RE WRONG. PRODUCER.
I BET NEXT MONTH YOU'LL WANT TO BE A JOURNALIST.
OH, COME ON. WHO CARES ABOUT THE DETAILS?
YOU KNOW MINE ISN'T EVEN ENGLISH AT ALL.
HEY...
LIKE A JAPANESE-ENGLISH COMBO.
GOOD FOR YOU. YOU FOUND A KINDRED SPIRIT.
THERE ARE SO MANY STUDENTS HERE. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW EVERYONE.
BESIDES, HOW'D YOU FIND ALL THAT OUT?
HIS NAME'S KINDA LIKE YOURS.
HE'S THE ONE WHO PICKED UP YOUR TEST THE OTHER DAY, RIGHT?

HONESTLY, YOU SPEND WAY TOO MUCH ENERGY ON USELESS STUFF...
USE THAT PASSION FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS.
HOLD UP. DID YOU ASK HIM DIRECTLY?!
OHH, OKAY... HEY, NO! I MEAN, WHY DID YOU GO SNOOPING AROUND AND—
I'VE GOT A BUDDY IN THE SCIENCES WHO I HANG OUT WITH SOMETIMES, AND I'VE SEEN HATTA AROUND.
'COURSE NOT. I JUST ASKED MY BUDDY.
FLIP
HUH?
ANYWAY... I DON'T NEED THIS, SO YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND TAKE IT.
...
GONNA GO TAKE A LEAK!
CLATTER
UH, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS?

I DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW ALL THIS.
JEEZ...
HIS NAME JUST GOT ME CURIOUS.
AND HE CALLED ME "MR. EIGHT."
Tomoya Hatta
Sciences, Class 3-A
Birthday October 8TH
GRIN
RIGHT BACK AT YOU.

WE'RE IN DIFFERENT PROGRAMS, SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR US TO INTERACT AGAIN...
BUT, WELL...

WE DON'T INTERACT...

...BUT I GUESS, EVEN BEFORE...

...WE MUST HAVE...
...PASSED EACH OTHER BY LIKE THIS.
WELL...
NOT THAT IT MATTERS.
ザーーーーー
ザーーーーー
NO! IT'S RAINING?!
THE FORECAST LIED!
JEEZ, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S GONNA LET UP.
DO YOU HAVE AN UMBRELLA?
NO!

PROPS TO ME FOR KEEPING AN UMBRELLA AT SCHOOL.
SPLISH
FWUMP
CAN YOU WAIT FOR ME?!
HEY, HOLD UP!
MR. EIGHT!
HUH?
SPLASH

JUST TO THE STATION.
CAN I DUCK UNDER?

S...
...

NAH, I HAD THIS LYING AROUND.
NOT ON PURPOSE, THOUGH.
JUST LIKE THE OTHER DAY.
YOUR TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER, MR. EIGHT.
MR. EIGHT...
HAHA.
SURE, BUT TALK ABOUT SUDDEN.
GOOD. I NEED TO HEAD HOME ASAP TODAY.
I'M AMAZED YOU HAD AN UMBRELLA WITH YOU.
DID THEY SAY IT WAS GONNA RAIN TODAY?

I DIDN'T THINK WE'D TALK AGAIN.
PLUS...
THANKS TO THAT MORON, THIS FEELS KINDA...

...AWKWARD.

THIS MIGHT BE MY FIRST TIME ACTUALLY TALKING WITH SOMEONE OUTSIDE OF MY PROGRAM.
SAME HERE, COME TO THINK OF IT...
NOTHING OVERLAPS BETWEEN THE TWO PROGRAMS, Y'KNOW?
THERE'S SO FEW OF US IN THE SCIENCES THAT NO ONE SEEMS NEW, EVEN WHEN WE GET SHUFFLED INTO NEW HOME-ROOMS.
RIGHT, 'CUZ YOU'RE IN THE HUMAN-ITIES.
MUST BE NICE HAVING SO MANY OTHER STUDENTS AROUND.

SO THIS IS ACTUALLY...
...SORTA NICE.
'COURSE...
...THAT'S JUST ME TALKING.
...
ACTUALLY—
AND WE HAVE SUCH RELATABLE NAMES.
WELL...
YOU'RE ACTUALLY MUCH MORE OF A MR. EIGHT THAN ME.
OH.
YOU FIGURED IT OUT?
WHEN IT'S THAT OBVIOUS, YEAH.
AND YOU HAVE THE CHARACTER "EIGHT" RIGHT THERE IN YOUR LAST NAME—
HUH?

THAT MORON!!
NO, UHHH.
UM...
!!!
DID I TELL YOU MY NAME?
...
LIKE, I HEARD IT FROM SOMEONE, AND IT STUCK WITH ME.
SO YEAH, THAT'S THE DEAL.
JERK
JERK
JERK
THERE WAS A NOTE—I MEAN...!
I JUST KINDA CAME ACROSS IT...
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL AT ALL, SO UH—
Pfft!
HAHAHAHA! HOW FLUSTERED CAN YOU GET?!
WE GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL. THERE'S NOTHING WEIRD ABOUT YOU KNOWING MY NAME!
HUH?

BUT YOURS SOUNDS JUST LIKE "EIGHT."
I'M CALLED HACHI BECAUSE OF THE "EIGHT" IN MY LAST NAME.
ANYWAY, YEAH...
...
IT'S NOT JUST THE NAME, THOUGH...
But I won't tell him that.
HMM?
ACTUALLY...
MY NAME. IT'S—
WISH

FWUMP

FSSS
SS
SHHH
HHH
...
...

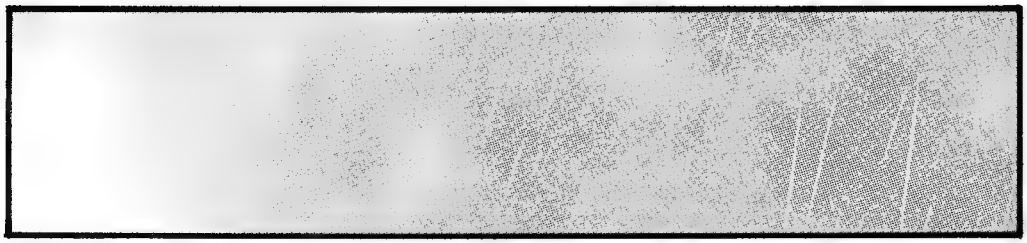
YOU GOT TO BE KIDDING ME. THE STATION'S STILL A WAYS AWAY.
IT'S LIKE A COMEDY BIT! It's totally wrecked.
WOW, THAT'S CRAZY.

EITO...

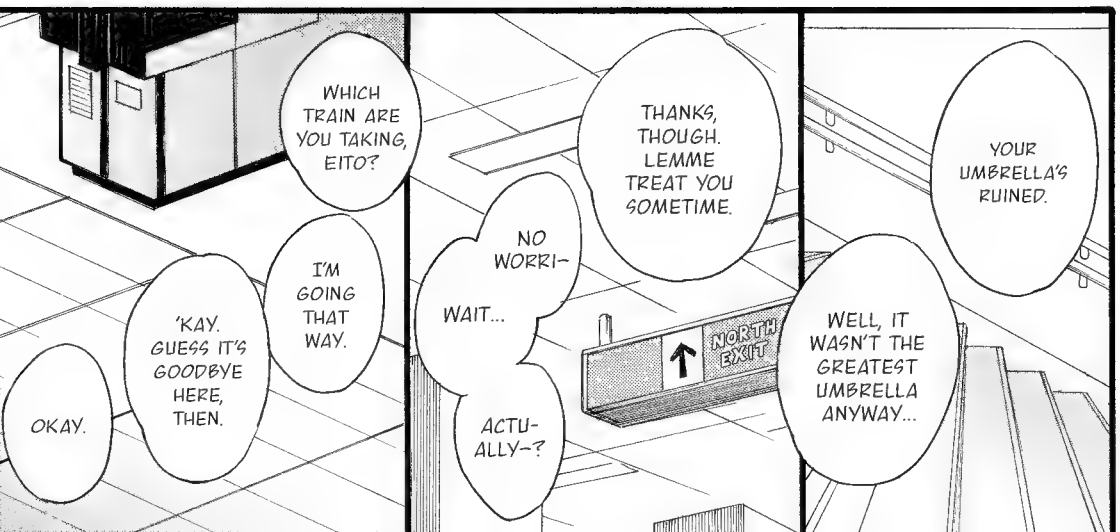
WELL, SO MUCH FOR MY UMBRELLA...

PFFT!

LET'S RUN FOR IT.



BEEP
BEEP
BEEP


WHICH TRAIN ARE YOU TAKING, EITO?
I'M GOING THAT WAY.
'KAY. GUESS IT'S GOODBYE HERE, THEN.
OKAY.
THANKS, THOUGH. LEMME TREAT YOU SOMETIME.
NO WORRI-
WAIT...
ACTU-ALLY-?
NORTH EXIT
YOUR UMBRELLA'S RUINED.
WELL, IT WASN'T THE GREATEST UMBRELLA ANYWAY...

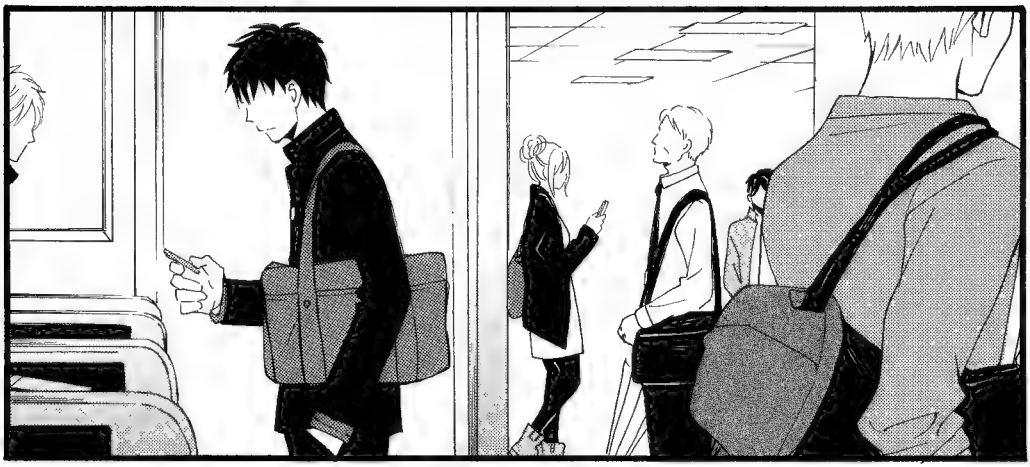
NEVER MIND.

ACTUALLY...

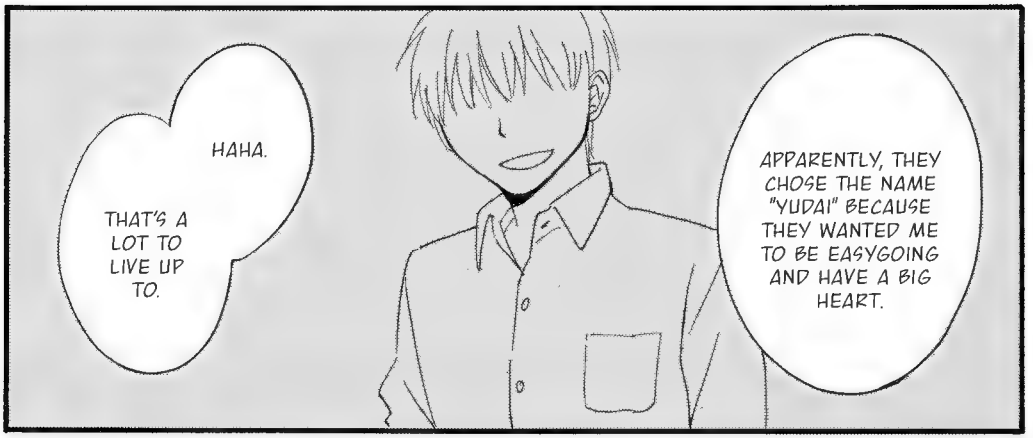
WHEN I WAS A KID, I HATED HOW THAT ALWAYS HAPPENED.

WHENEVER PEOPLE SAW MY NAME, THAT'S WHAT THEY CALLED ME.

...AND I PRETTY MUCH GAVE UP AND GOT USED TO THE WHOLE THING.



EITO.
SEE YOU,
2014.3.31
18 YEARS OLD
AKITO TACHIBANA
¥36,580
2013.10.1
BEEP


HAHA.
THAT'S A LOT TO LIVE UP TO.
APPARENTLY, THEY CHOSE THE NAME "YUDAI" BECAUSE THEY WANTED ME TO BE EASYGOING AND HAVE A BIG HEART.

SO I ASKED MY DAD THAT NIGHT.

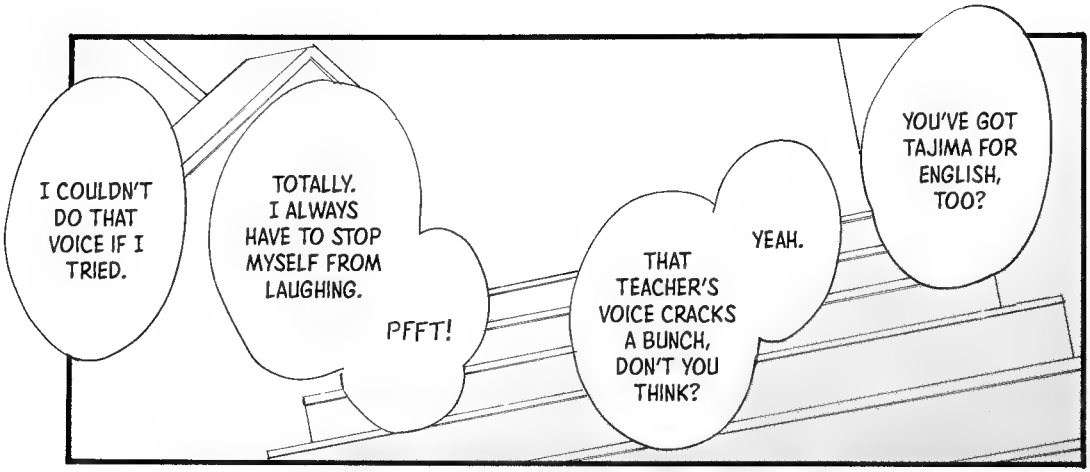
...AND I WONDERED IF THERE WAS A REASON FOR MY AWKWARD NAME, TOO...

THE SUBJECT CAME UP ONE DAY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...

I NEVER SHOULD'VE ASKED.
HAHA!
KIND OF LIKE...A CURVEBALL, Y'KNOW!
IT'S A GOOD ICE-BREAKER, RIGHT? LIKE, "WHAAAT? *THAT'S* HOW YOU READ YOUR NAME?"
GLUG
GLUG

NUMBER CALL

Call 2


YOU'VE GOT TAJIMA FOR ENGLISH, TOO?
YEAH.
THAT TEACHER'S VOICE CRACKS A BUNCH, DON'T YOU THINK?
TOTALLY. I ALWAYS HAVE TO STOP MYSELF FROM LAUGHING.
PFFT!
I COULDN'T DO THAT VOICE IF I TRIED.

Yo.
Morning.
OH, HEY.
THIS IS ME.
'KAY.

EVER SINCE THAT DAY...
TOP OF THE MORNING TO YOU, EITO, SIR!
I MUST SAY, IT'S ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL DAY!
WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
DON'T BE A BUZZKILL, EITO, SIR!
SETTLE DOWN, YOKOI, SIR.
FWIP
OW!
WHAP
ば
SQUEAK

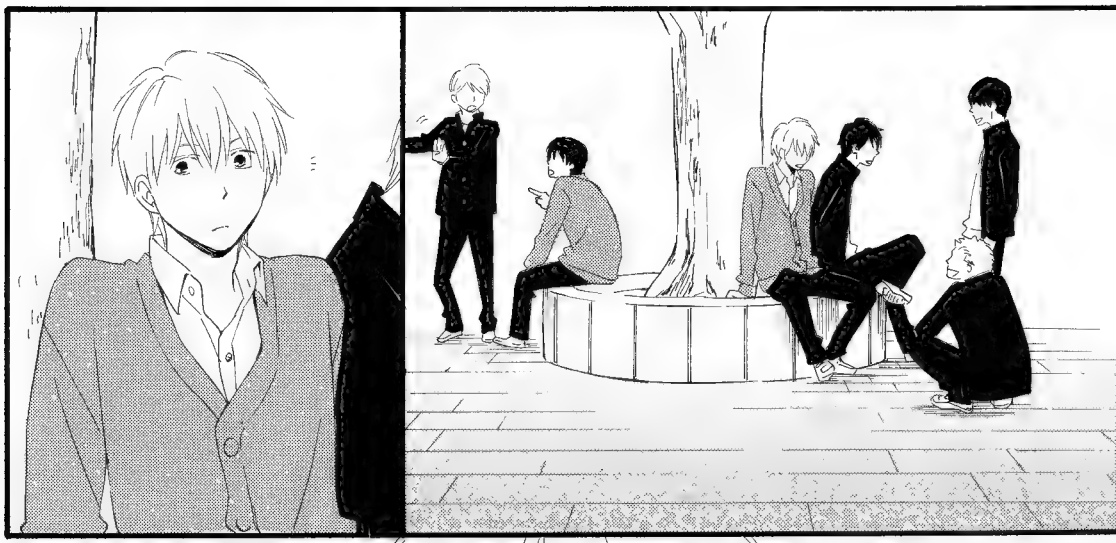
HUH.
I KEEP RUNNING INTO YOU TODAY.
...HE TALKS TO ME WHENEVER WE PASS EACH OTHER BY.

MAYBE, YEAH.
I BET IT'S A NEW RECORD.
HAHA!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I SAW YOU THIS MORNING AND AT LUNCH.

SEE YOU!
SEE YA.
JUST TO SAY HELLO...
...OR EXCHANGE A FEW WORDS HERE AND THERE.

EIGHTMAN.
EITON.
ATOK!
WELL *EXCUSE ME* FOR BOTHERING YOU.
WHAT?! WILL YOU AT LEAST STICK TO ONE?!
SHP かいは
IF YOU DON'T GET GOING, YOU'LL BE LATE.
WE GOTTA SWITCH CLASS-ROOMS.
AGH!
I SHOULDN'T BE READING THIS!
THAT'S RIGHT!
I'M GONNA GO ON AHEAD.
OKAY.
RATTLE

CRAP.
I GOT TOO CAUGHT UP READING THAT MANGA.
THAT TEACHER'S A TOTAL NAG ABOUT GETTING TO CLASS ON TIME.
WELL, IF I HURRY A BIT, I SHOULD GET THERE IN–



AND SO...
...AND EXCHANGE A FEW WORDS...
...WE SAY HI...
...BUT THAT'S ALL.

...NOT THAT THERE'S ANY-THING WRONG WITH THAT.
I MEAN...
...THAT'S PRETTY NORMAL.
I GUESS...

HIM BEING IN A DIFFERENT CLASS AND ALL.

FACULTY
YOU WERE A HUGE HELP.
THANKS, TACHIBANA!
OH, NO PROBLEM.
I'M GONNA GET GOING, THEN.
KER-CHAK
カチャ

So our homeroom teacher's the type who gives out candy.
I HELP CARRY SOME DOCUMENTS AND HE GIVES ME THESE.
Who would've thought?

WELL, HE'S OUTGOING ENOUGH TO TALK TO ME.
OF COURSE HE HAS LOADS OF FRIENDS.
...HE HAS A LOT OF FRIENDS.
IT SURE SEEMS LIKE...
LOOKS FUN.
OR ELSE...
HE NEVER WOULD'VE SHARED AN UMBRELLA WITH SOMEONE HE BASICALLY JUST MET.
HE'S LIKE...
...THE POLAR OPPOSITE FROM ME.

I BET HE CAN HIT IT OFF LIKE THAT WITH ANYONE.
BUT...
WHAT IF HE DOESN'T?
CLASS 3-5
WHAT IF I WAS SPECIAL?
...

COME ON!
THAT'S COMPLETELY NORMAL FOR AN OUTGOING GUY LIKE HIM! AT LEAST, I THINK?!
WHY DID I SAY THAT?!
OR RATHER, THINK THAT?!
I TAKE IT ALL BACK!
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

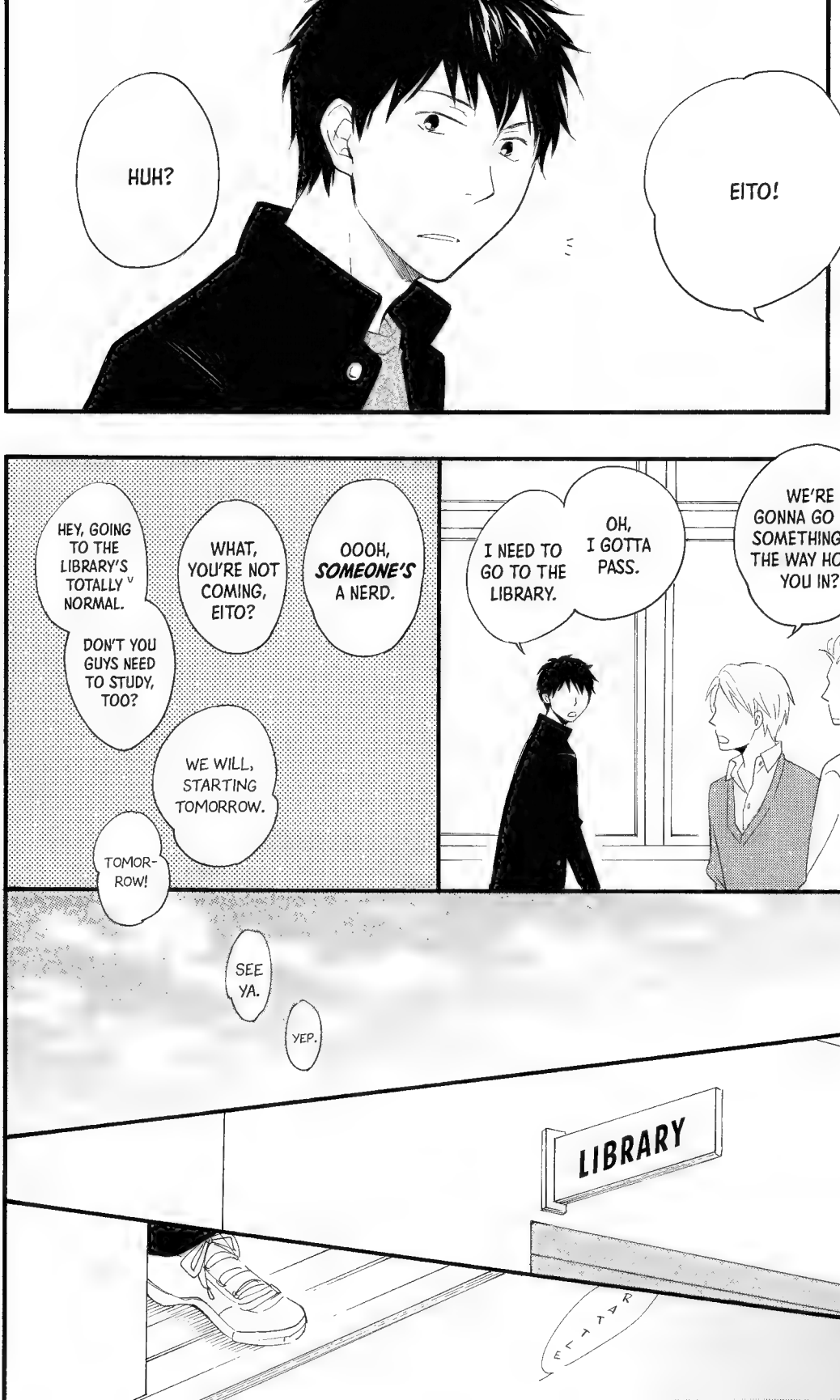
WHAT DO I MEAN, "SPECIAL"?!

WHEW, THERE WE GO.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN GONNA ASK WHAT I'M DOING?

RATTLE

OOOOOH!
SOME CANDY, PERHAPS?!
HMM, HMM!
I SMELL SOMETHING SWEET ON THIS ONE!
HMM!
CREEP
STOP SWARMING ME, JAY 1 AND JAY 2.
CREEP
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, EITO?
UH.
Yokoi, too.
A RATTLE
WHATEVER. JUST TAKE 'EM.
GIVE 'EM HERE!
HE ACTUALLY DOES HAVE CANDY!
HEY!

OOH, GREAT IDEA, NISHITANI.
Y'KNOW, I'M STARVING. WANNA GO GRAB A BITE BEFORE HEADING HOME?
MAN, I WAS MAD SLEEPY DURING SIXTH PERIOD.
OKAY, TIME TO BOUNCE!
DOOONG
DIIING
DOOONG
DAAANG


HUH?
EITO!
HEY, GOING TO THE LIBRARY'S TOTALLY NORMAL.
DON'T YOU GUYS NEED TO STUDY, TOO?
WHAT, YOU'RE NOT COMING, EITO?
OOOH, SOMEONE'S A NERD.
WE WILL, STARTING TOMORROW.
TOMOR-ROW!
I NEED TO GO TO THE LIBRARY.
OH, I GOTTA PASS.
WE'RE GONNA GO EAT SOMETHING ON THE WAY HOME. YOU IN?
SEE YA.
YEP.
LIBRARY

IT'S SUPER CROWDED TODAY.
ARE THERE ANY SEATS OPEN?
AH.
EXCUSE ME.
THAT'S THE ONLY ONE.
IS THIS SEAT...
...TA-?

HUH?!
GRIN
IT'S ALL YOURS.

Gotta prep for entrance exams.
Sometimes.
You come here to study?
...Didn't expect to see you here.
Whispering
Who would've thought, huh?
CLATTER
Okay.
At least, that's the plan.
Uh, yeah.
Hey.
You gonna stay until school closes, Eito?

THEN LET'S HEAD OUT TOGETHER.
I THINK AT THIS POINT...
...MY CONCENTRATION'S PRETTY MUCH SHOT.
THERE'S A LOT LESS PEOPLE HERE NOW.
THIRTY MORE MINUTES.

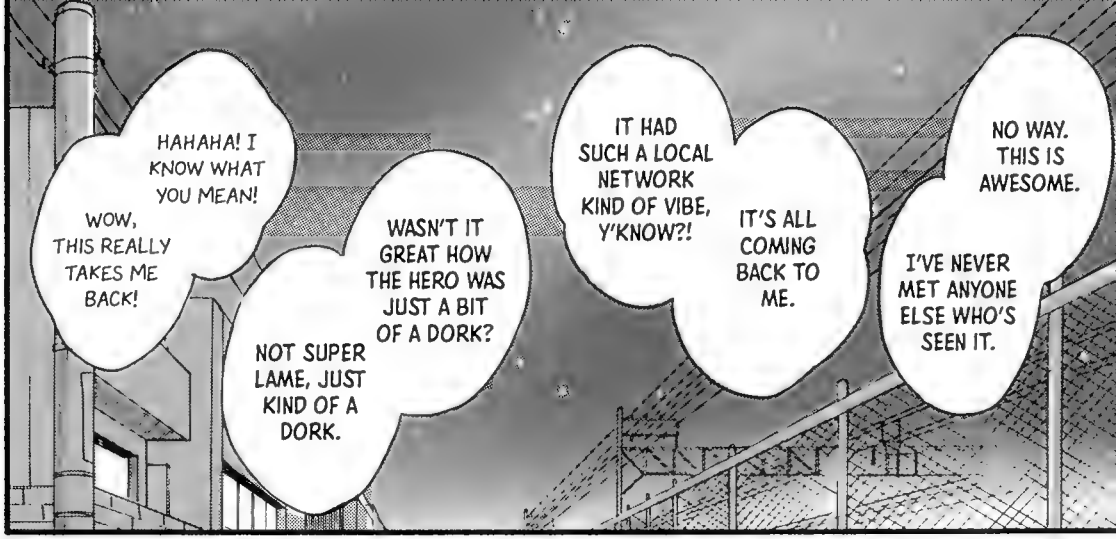
KNOCK
HUH?
UH.
WHOA.
ZZZ
UH...
HE'S WAY TOO CLOSE...
HE'S ASLEEP?

...
...IT'S NO GOOD.
I CAN'T THINK AT ALL.

OH, HEY.
YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
I GET SUPER SLEEPY WHEN I DO THINGS I DON'T REALLY LIKE.
HEY, NO PROBLEM.
SORRY I WAS LEANING ON YOU.
YAAAWN
I TOTALLY FELL ASLEEP.
OH MAN,

TUNK
GOT IT.
?
D'YA HAVE A FAVORITE DRINK?
HUH?
AKUARIUS, MAYBE?
TAP
HERE.
TO THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME UNDER YOUR UMBRELLA.

AKUARIUS
THANKS.
HEY, I KNOW THAT SHOW!
I USED TO WATCH IT!
FOR REAL?!
WHENEVER I TALK ABOUT IT, PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY THEY'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT!
WHAT? *HOW?!*
I *LOVED* THAT SHOW! I USED TO WATCH IT EVERY WEEK!


NO WAY. THIS IS AWESOME.
I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE ELSE WHO'S SEEN IT.
IT HAD SUCH A LOCAL NETWORK KIND OF VIBE, Y'KNOW?!
IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME.
WASN'T IT GREAT HOW THE HERO WAS JUST A BIT OF A DORK?
NOT SUPER LAME, JUST KIND OF A DORK.
HAHAHA! I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!
WOW, THIS REALLY TAKES ME BACK!

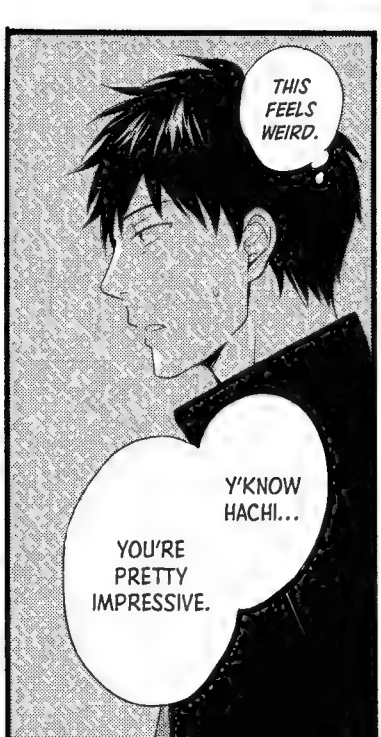
I'M SO GLAD IT WASN'T ALL IN MY HEAD.
SERIOUSLY, NO ONE'S HEARD OF IT.
HAHA. IT EXISTS, DON'T WORRY.
I REALLY LOVED THAT THE HERO WASN'T THE COOLEST.

I CAN'T REMEMBER THE TITLE, THOUGH.
I'M THIRSTY NOW FROM TALKING SO MUCH.
CAN I HAVE A SIP?
HUH?
YEAH, SURE.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BOUGHT IT FOR ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.
GLUG ゴキュ
HEH.
GLUG ゴキュ
GLUG ゴキュ
WHEW, THAT HIT THE SPOT.
THANKS.
SURE.
THUNK
...WHAT?
WELL,
I WAS THINKING WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE JUST KISSED.
ぶほっ
PTOOEY
UH.
WAIT.
WHAT?!
PFFT!

I CAN'T DENY THAT.
Unfortunately...
PFFT!
Y'KNOW, I KINDA GUESSED ALREADY...
BUT PEOPLE LIKE MESSING WITH YOU, DON'T THEY?

...
You're too funny.


THIS FEELS WEIRD.
Y'KNOW HACHI...
YOU'RE PRETTY IMPRESSIVE.

I MEAN, I JUST WENT AHEAD AND CALLED YOU EITO.
HACHI'S FINE.
O...
OKAY.

UH.
Y'KNOW... HATTA...
HUH?

YOU THINK SO?
I'M USUALLY SHY AROUND PEOPLE...
...SO HOPPING UNDER AN UMBRELLA WITH SOMEONE I BARELY KNOW?
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'RE APPROACH-ABLE AND YOU HAVE TONS OF FRIENDS.
YOU'RE THE KIND OF GUY WHO CAN HIT IT OFF WITH ANYONE RIGHT OFF THE BAT.
WHO, *ME?*
I COULD NEVER DO THAT.
I JUST THINK IT'S AMAZING.

BUT I CAN'T DO THAT, EITHER.
HUH?
BUT YOU TOTALLY DID.
I'M A PRETTY EASYGOING GUY, SO PEOPLE TEND TO THINK I'M LIKE THAT,
BUT I ONLY REALLY HANG WITH GUYS I'M COMFORTABLE WITH.
AND I DON'T SET OUT TO BE FRIENDS WITH JUST ANYONE.
I DUNNO.
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE OF OUR NAMES, I GUESS?
I'M PRETTY SURE...
SOME PEOPLE I JUST DON'T CLICK WITH.

...WAS SPECIAL?

SO I...

...HUH?
HEY.
EITO?

YEAH, RIGHT.

AND HERE I ALWAYS THOUGHT...

...I'D NEVER LEARN TO LIKE MY NAME.

BUT...

YOU STOPPED SO SUDDENLY. I THOUGHT YOU STARTED FEELING SICK.
SORRY, I GOT A PEBBLE IN MY SHOE.
OH, I SEE.
IT'S SO DARK I COULDN'T CHECK YOUR FACE OUT.
UH.
NO.
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY!

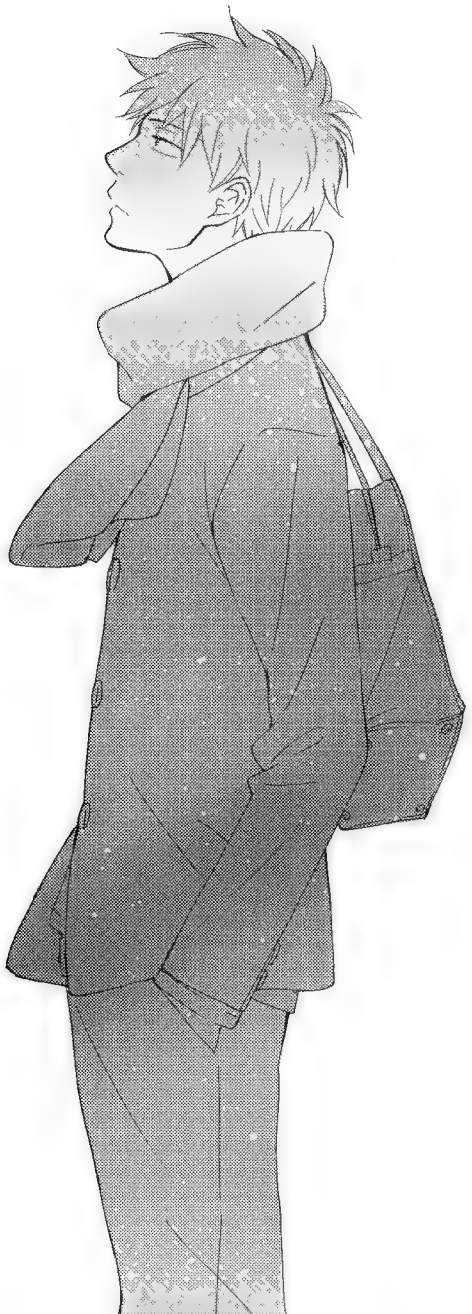
MAYBE...

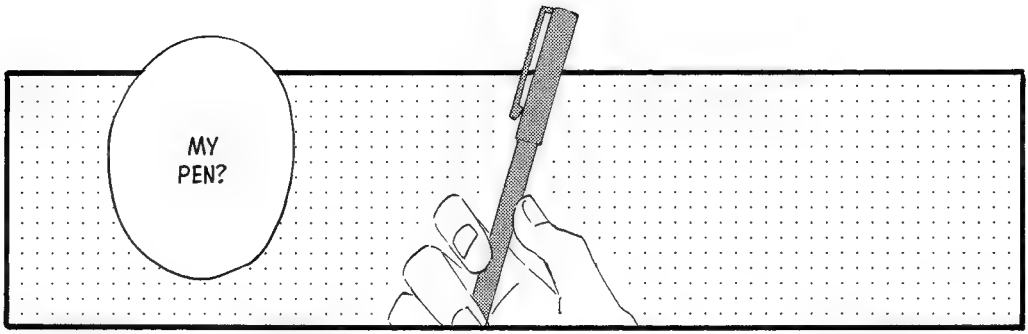
...IT'S NOT ACTUALLY AS BAD AS I THOUGHT.

EITO!
YOU GOT A VISITOR!
CLASS 3-5
HUH?

NUMBER CALL

Call 3




MY PEN?

YEAH, IT IS.
I DIDN'T NOTICE AT ALL.
SORRY, YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TO.
NAH, NO WORRIES.
YEAH.
I THINK I TOOK IT HOME BY MISTAKE YESTERDAY.
IT'S YOURS, ISN'T IT?

WHAT IS?
IT'S DIFFERENT, ALL RIGHT.
FEWER PEOPLE WITH GLASSES!
UH-HUH...

...BUT I ALSO WANTED TO TAKE A PEEK AT YOUR CLASSROOM.
WELL, I DID WANNA GIVE YOU BACK YOUR PEN...
?
GRIN

WHERE'S YOUR SEAT?
THE WINDOW SEAT AT THE VERY BACK.
AWW, LUCKY YOU. I'VE NEVER GOTTEN THAT SEAT BEFORE.
I BET NAPPING IN CLASS THERE WOULD BE SWEET.
BUT YOU KNOW, I NEVER NAP IN CLASS.
I FEEL LIKE I DON'T DESERVE THAT SEAT.
HAHA!
YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT!
YOU SEEM LIKE THE TYPE WHO PAYS PROPER ATTENTION IN CLASS.
キーンコーン
カーンコーン
OH!
THERE'S THE BELL.
I GOTTA HEAD BACK.
SEE YOU LATER.
OH, HEY!
THANKS FOR THE PEN!
MM-HMM.

HACHI COMING OVER TO MY CLASSROOM?
I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF THAT.
UH...
WHAT IS THIS?
THAT'S ALL HE DID, BUT SOMEHOW—
E~~ I~~ TO~~~.
LURK
EEP!
QUIT HAUNTING ME, YOU FREAK!
HEE HEE...
WHAT WAS THAAAT?
I ALREADY KNEW THIS, BUT YOU REALLY GET ON MY NERVES!
HE'S THE GUY WHO PICKED UP YOUR TEST, RIGHT?
AND HE CAME TO GIVE YOU YOUR PEN BACK.
WHICH MUST MEAN...
You were eavesdropping again!

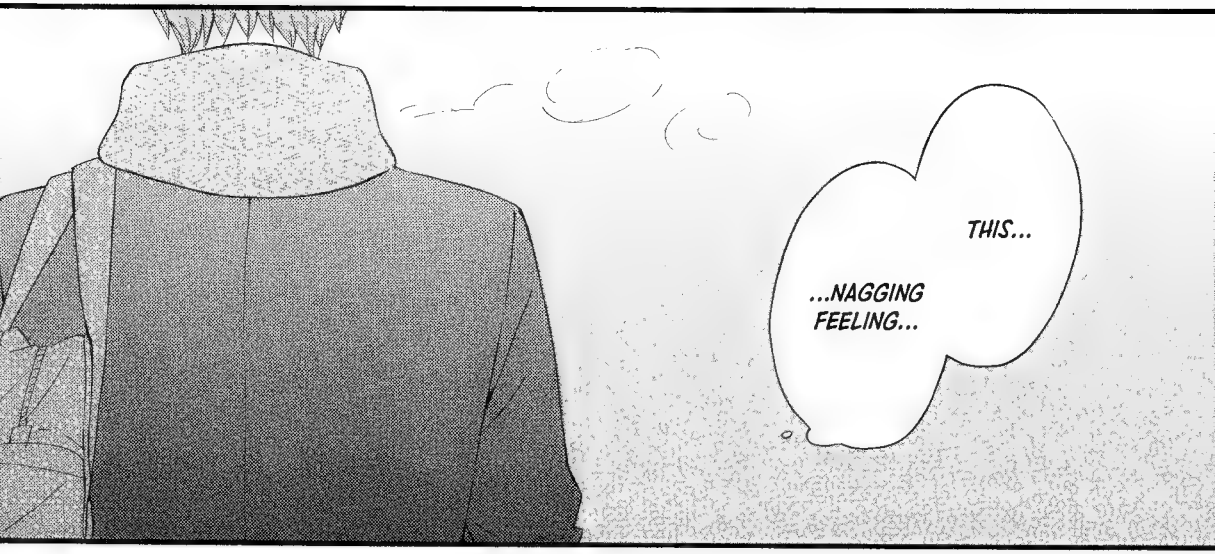
HMMM. SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME SUCH GOOD BUDDIES, HUUUH?
IS THAT WHY YOU ALWAYS GO TO THE LIBRARY THESE DAYS?
BUT WHO THOUGHT YOU TWO'D ACTUALLY HIT IT OFF?
I WAS JUST TEASING YOU 'CUZ OF YOUR NAMES,
WILL YOU GET OFF ME—?
CUT IT OUT, CLASS IS ABOUT TO START.
THAT'S UNUSUAL FOR YOU.
HUH!
IT JUST KINDA HAPPENED.
SMIRK
SMIRK

YOU'RE TOTALLY FRIENDS NOW.

RIGHT!
HEY!
GET IN THE CLASSROOM, YOU TWO!
DIIING
DOOONG
DAAANG
DOOONG
FRIENDS...
HUH?

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
WE ARE FRIENDS... RIGHT?
WE ARE.
WE MAY HAVE MET UNDER UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES...
...BUT THAT'S IT.
NOTHING WEIRD ABOUT IT.

BUT...



SOMETHING FEELS...
OFF?

WAIT.
WHAT?
I LEFT THIS IN HERE?
HUH.
GUESS I FORGOT ABOUT IT.
GOOD THING I DIDN'T LEND THIS TO ANYONE.
Whew.
IF...
WE BOTH HAD DIFFERENT NAMES...
Tomoya
"YOU'RE TOTALLY FRIENDS NOW."

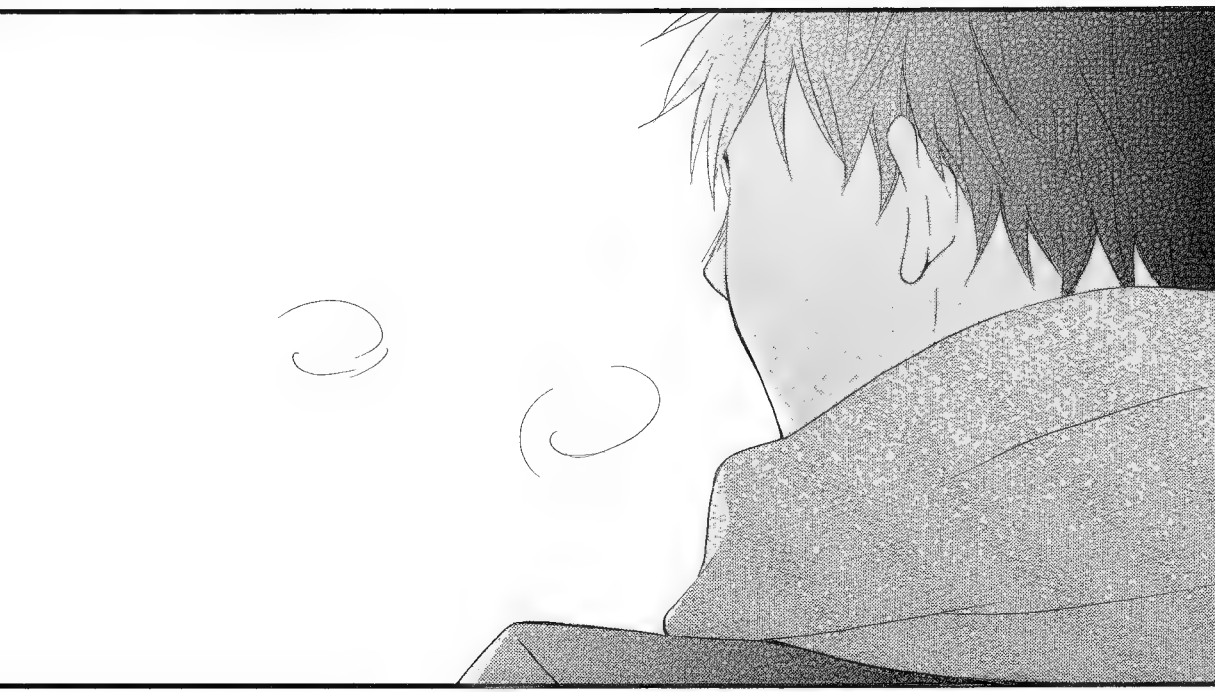
...WOULD WE HAVE EVEN MET?
IT'S FREEZING!
JEEZ!
I THINK TODAY WAS MY BEST STUDY DAY YET.
WELL, MAYBE IT'S GOOD FOR MY CONCENTRATION.
YEAH.
IT'S WINTER ALREADY.
IT'S CHILLY OUT TODAY, HUH?
YEAH?
WELL, THAT'S GOOD, THEN.

I ALWAYS END UP RELYING ON YOU.
I SUCK AT ENGLISH, SO YOU'RE A LIFESAVER.
YEAH, YOU'RE EASY TO FOLLOW.
HUH?!
REALLY?
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THIS, BUT YOU'RE A REALLY GOOD TEACHER.
Y-YEAH?
GLAD I COULD HELP OUT.
EVER SINCE WE FIRST RAN INTO EACH OTHER AT THE LIBRARY,
STUDYING TOGETHER, THEN HEADING HOME, HAS BECOME A ROUTINE.
I BET YOU HAVE YOUR OWN STUDYING TO DO.
YOU REALLY DON'T NEED TO DO THAT FOR ME.
YOU END UP TEACHING ME MOST OF THE TIME.
HUH?
OH.
BUT LET ME KNOW, OKAY?

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG...

...FOR THAT TO BECOME THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY DAY.

WAIT.



*IS **THIS** WHAT BEING FRIENDS IS SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE?*

HERE.
WHY DIDJA GET ONE FOR ME?
UH...
WHAT, AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
SURE I AM.
SWEET. THEN EAT UP.
OKAY, THEN LEMME PAY—
NAH, IT'S ON ME.
NOM むぐ むぐ NOM
YOU'RE ALWAYS TEACHING ME.
MM, IT'S SO GOOD!
PLUS, EATING STUFF WITH SOMEONE MAKES IT TASTE THAT MUCH BETTER, Y'KNOW?

JUST...

ONE SIMPLE WORD...
ONE LITTLE SMILE...
I THINK I LOVE PORK BUNS THE BEST.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, EITO?
HMM. SAME HERE, I GUESS, WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT.
...MAKES SUCH A DIFFERENCE.

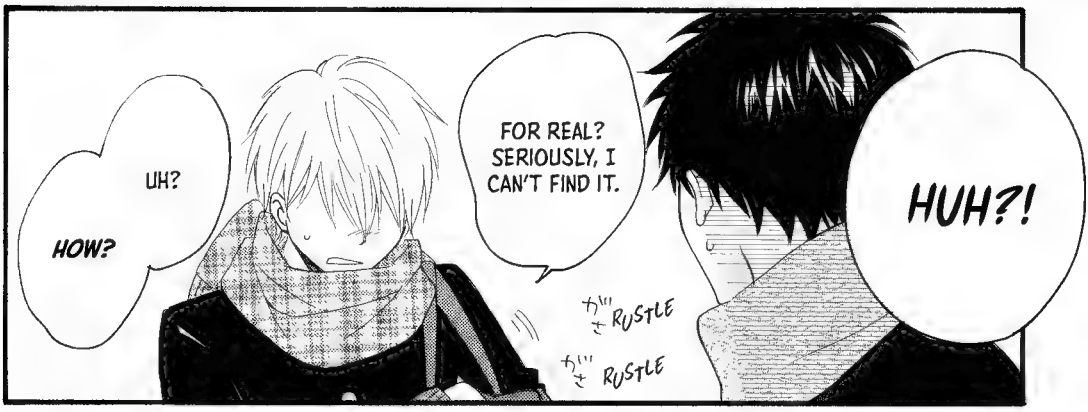
OH.
I GET
IT NOW.

SO GOOD.

HE'S NOT JUST A FRIEND TO ME.

A train will be arriving on...
...platform three shortly.
For your safety, please wait behind the white line-
GATUNK
GATUNK
IT'S GONE.

I CAN'T FIND IT.
MY TRAIN PASS.


UH?
HOW?
FOR REAL? SERIOUSLY, I CAN'T FIND IT.
HUH?!
カサ RUSTLE
カサ RUSTLE

SIIIGH
MAYBE I DROPPED IT SOMEWHERE...
I ALWAYS STICK IT IN RANDOM PLACES.

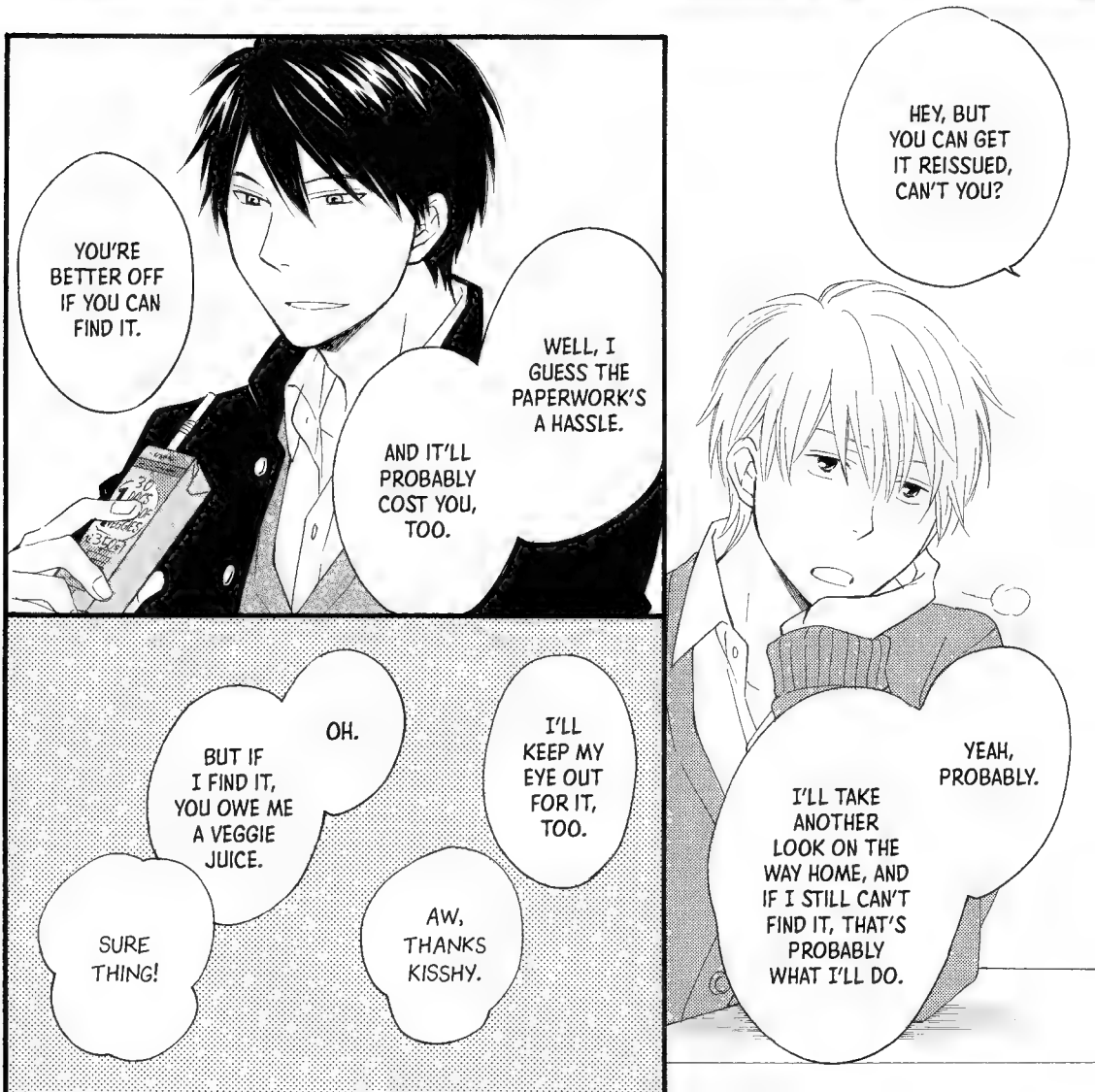
WHAT ABOUT YOUR POCKETS?
WHERE DID YOU PUT IT THIS MORNING?
HMM... I CHECKED THEM ALL, BUT NO LUCK.
UUH... I'M NOT SURE.

WHAT AM I GONNA DO? I'VE ALREADY PAID FOR IT TO LAST UNTIL GRADUATION.
I FIGURED.
WANNA GO BACK AND LOOK FOR IT?
HMM...
BUT IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE ANYTHING NOW.
AND I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHERE I DROPPED IT...
...
I'LL BUY A TICKET TO GET HOME TODAY.
THEN I'LL TRY LOOKING FOR IT TOMORROW MORNING ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL.

...
NO LUCK.
I MEAN,
IT MUST'VE BLOWN AWAY IN THIS WIND, RIGHT?
NO WAY I'M GONNA FIND IT NOW.
MAN, MAYBE I SHOULD'VE LOOKED FOR IT YESTERDAY!
ARGGGH!
Aack!
My skirt!
Jeez!
What's up with this wind?!

'MORNING, BUDDY.
コン
TOK
YO, HACHI.
30 DAYS WORTH OF VEGGIES
350 VEGGIES
HUH.
YOU'RE ACTUALLY FEELING DOWN.
STARTING YOUR DAY HEALTHY AGAIN, HUH?
HEY, KISSHY.
OH.
WHAT'S UP? YOU DON'T LOOK TOO HAPPY.
YOU LOST YOUR TRAIN PASS?

SERI-OUS-LY?
YOU *KNOW* IT'S BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS SHOVE IT WHEREVER.
KEEP IT IN A CARD HOLDER OR SOMETHING.
WELL... I'M SO USED TO NOT USING ONE.
I WILL FROM NOW ON, THOUGH.

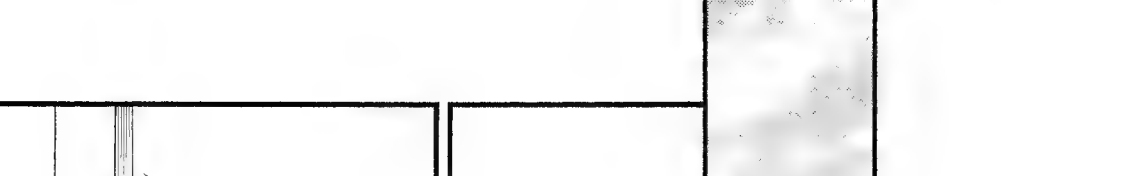

HEY, BUT YOU CAN GET IT REISSUED, CAN'T YOU?
YEAH, PROBABLY.
I'LL TAKE ANOTHER LOOK ON THE WAY HOME, AND IF I STILL CAN'T FIND IT, THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT I'LL DO.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF IF YOU CAN FIND IT.
WELL, I GUESS THE PAPERWORK'S A HASSLE.
AND IT'LL PROBABLY COST YOU, TOO.
I'LL KEEP MY EYE OUT FOR IT, TOO.
OH.
BUT IF I FIND IT, YOU OWE ME A VEGGIE JUICE.
AW, THANKS KISSHY.
SURE THING!

YAAAWN
YOU LOOK PRETTY SLEEPY.
OH, YEAH...
I GOT UP EARLY TO LOOK FOR MY PASS.
BUT THE WIND WAS SO STRONG, YOU KNOW?
I'M AMAZED YOUR SKIN ISN'T THE COLOR OF VEGGIE JUICE.
SHOOT, THIS ISN'T ENOUGH. I SHOULD'VE BOUGHT ANOTHER ONE.
ZZZLVP
I'M GONNA GO TO THE BATHROOM TO WAKE MYSELF UP.
HOMEROOM'S STARTING SOON. YOU'D BETTER COME BACK QUICK.
JUST ANSWER WHEN THEY CALL MY NAME.
LIKE THEY WON'T NOTICE RIGHT AWAY?
HAHA.
RATTLE

HUH?
UH...
WHOA.

UH.
WELL...
I WAS JUST STARTLED 'CUZ THE DOOR OPENED ALL OF A—
NEVER MIND THAT.
WHAT? EITO?
WHY DID YOU COME TO MY CLASSROOM? AND ARE YOU OKAY?!
HERE.
RUSTLE
I FOUND THIS.

THAT'S IT.
DIIING
DOOONG
...
DAAANG
DOOONG


EITO?
WELL...
YEAH, HE'S HERE, BUT...
?

I wonder what's up with him?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SLEEP SO MUCH BEFORE.
HE DOESN'T USUALLY FALL ASLEEP AT SCHOOL, THOUGH.
HE'S BEEN ZONKED OUT ALL DAY.

BUT WHEN HE WAKES UP LATER...
IT'S OKAY.
...NAH.
I COULD WAKE HIM UP.
...

...CAN YOU TELL HIM...
I SAID THANKS?

DID HE RUN TO SCHOOL?
THAT MEANS HE WAS LOOKING FOR MY PASS UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE, RIGHT?
IN THAT CRAZY WIND.
HE HAD BAGS UNDER HIS EYES.
AND LEAVES ON HIM AND STUFF.
HE WAS ALL OUT OF BREATH, TOO.
I WONDER HOW EARLY HE GOT UP?

BUT...
...EVEN MORE THAN THAT...
I MEAN, OF COURSE I'M GLAD...
...THAT I GOT MY TRAIN PASS BACK...

MAN, HE'S SUCH AN IDIOT.

NUMBER CALL

NUMBER CALL

NUMBER CALL

Call 4

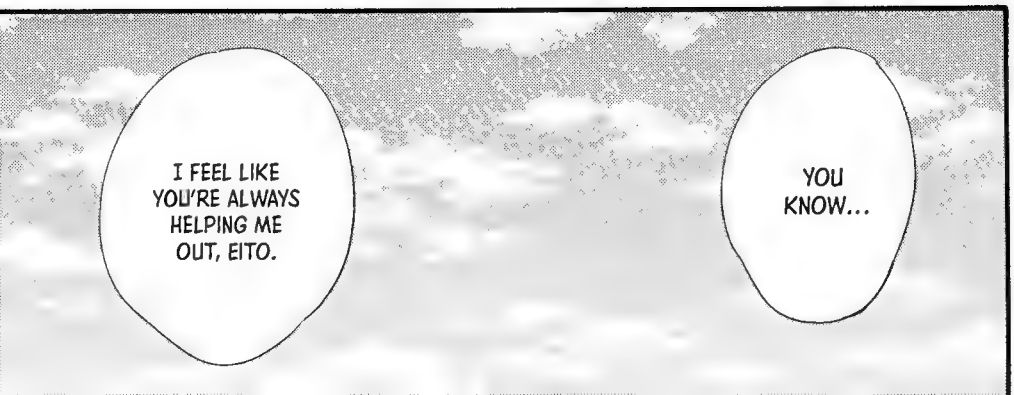
I'VE LIKED NUMBERS,
EVER SINCE I WAS A KID.

I'M PRETTY FOND
OF BOTH OF THEM.

HACHI.
...THAT FONDNESS APPLIES TO OTHER PEOPLE, TOO.
OH. HEY, EITO.
THAT'S SOME PILE YOU GOT THERE. YOU OKAY?
YEAH. THE TEACHER ASKED ME TO HELP CARRY IT...
...AND I THOUGHT I COULD TAKE IT ALL AT ONCE.
YOU SURE IT'S NOT TOO HEAVY?
WELL, IT IS A BIT HEAVY... BUT WELL...
I'LL BE...
FI—
CRIK

JEEZ.
THAT WAS CLOSE!
OOPS.
WHOA!
WOBBLE
THUD
SCIENCE
ALGEBRA
BIOLOGY
...
OKAY.
SO MAYBE I'M NOT FINE.
...
SORRY! DIDN'T MEAN TO–
HAHA! WHY ARE YOU APOL-OGIZING?
THANKS.
SHWIP
WHOOPS!

GIMME HALF.
SHF
LET ME HELP.
HUH?
THANKS.


I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS HELPING ME OUT, EITO.
YOU KNOW...

CAN WE DROP THAT ALREADY?
HUH? WHY?
WELL, IT'S KINDA EMBARRASS-ING...
DID YOU SEE WHAT A MESS I WAS AFTER?
YEAH. LIKE RIGHT NOW... AND WITH MY TRAIN PASS.
UH. REALLY?
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FOUND IT, BY THE WAY. I DIDN'T THINK TO LOOK IN THE PARK PAST THAT CONVENIENCE STORE.
SO?
IT WAS *COOL* HOW MUCH OF A MESS YOU WERE.
GRIN
...
CUT THAT OUT. YOU SOUND LIKE THAT PAIN IN THE ASS WITH PARTED BANGS.
I'M TOTALLY SERIOUS!
AWW, DON'T BE A SPOIL-SPORT, EITO.
YOU'RE TEASING ME AGAIN.
...

YOU KNOW,
I SMELLED YOU OUT RIGHT AWAY.
I REALLY MEAN IT, THOUGH...
FROM THE MOMENT I SAW YOU...
...I COULD TELL YOU WERE PROBABLY A NICE GUY.
YOU...
SMELLED ME...?!
Do I stink or something?
YES, YOU ARE.
WELL, BUT...
NAH, I'M NOT REALLY ALL THAT NICE.
OH.
THAT KIND OF SMELL...
Huh...

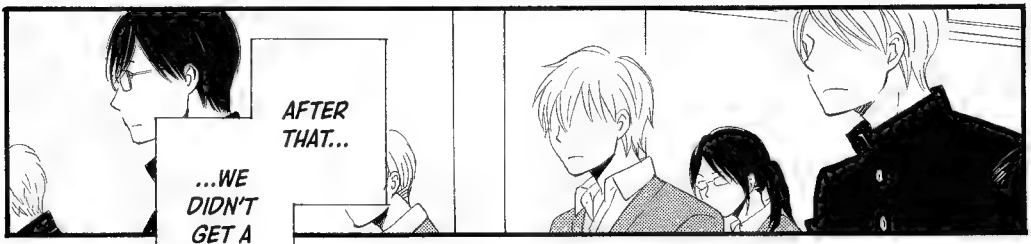
IF I WERE A GIRL, I'D WANT A BOYFRIEND LIKE YOU.
HUH?
REALLY?
BUT THEY SAY IT ISN'T VERY MANLY, Y'KNOW?
BEING A NICE GUY SOUNDS GOOD AND ALL...
THUMP
MATH II·B
WORKBOOK
CHEMISTRY
WHOA!
THAT STARTLED ME!

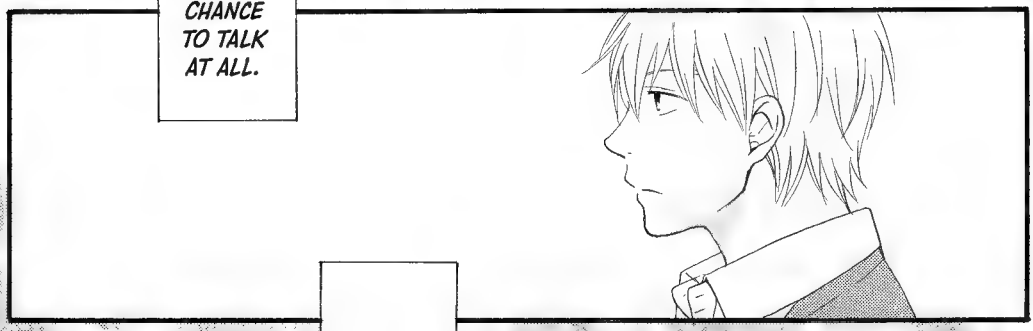
OH.
SORRY I CAN'T HELP PICK THOSE UP, THOUGH.
THESE AREN'T BREAKABLE OR ANY-THING.
IT'S OKAY.
SORRY.
MY HAND SLIPPED.
NO WORRIES.
SQUEAK
...FEELS WEIRD.
SOMETHING...
...HUH?

...EITO LOOK LIKE THAT BEFORE.

I'VE NEVER SEEN...

SO, CLASS, WINTER BREAK STARTS TOMORROW.
BUT IT'S YOUR VERY LAST CHANCE TO PREPARE FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS.
IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A HAPPY SPRING, YOU'D BETTER STUDY ACCORDINGLY.





WINTER BREAK STARTED...

THE NEW YEAR CAME...

...AND NOW IT'S OUR THIRD AND LAST TERM.
JEEZ, IT'S FREEZ-ING!
I JUST HOPE IT DOESN'T SNOW DURING ENTRANCE EXAMS.
YEAH, FOR REAL.
WE HAVE ENOUGH ON OUR HANDS AS IT IS.
YOU THINK IT'S REALLY GONNA SNOW NEXT WEEK?
WELL, IT SNOWS EVERY YEAR AROUND THIS TIME.
HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
APPARENT-LY TAKEDA WENT ON A VACATION OVERSEAS DURING BREAK.
GUESS HE'S ALL SET FOR EXAMS.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
AND I'M FOCUSED ON ENTRANCE EXAMS...

...BUT THIS NAGGING FEELING WON'T GO AWAY.

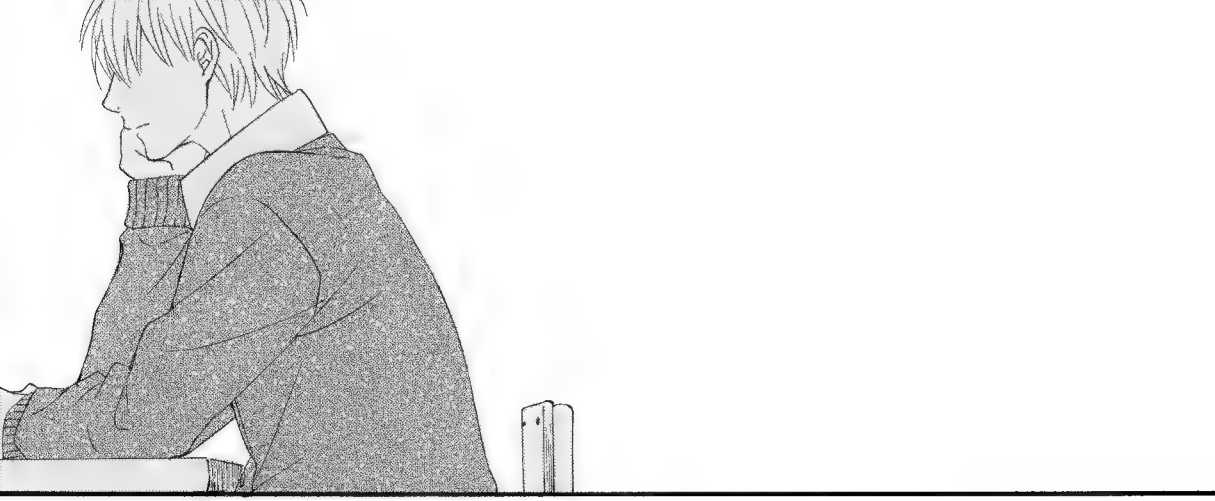
HAHA! SAME HERE.
YOU KNOW, WE HAVEN'T TALKED IN A WHILE, HUH?
OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER THIS TERM.
DID YOU HAVE A GOOD BREAK?
I SPENT THE WHOLE TIME STUDYING, ACTUALLY.

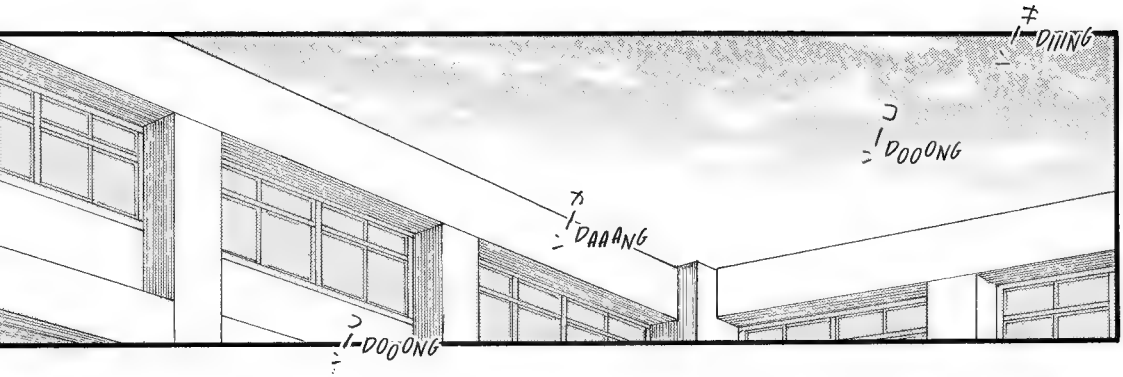
TRUE.

AT THIS POINT...
...EVEN I CAN TELL.
HUH?
OH... ACTUAL-LY...
HEY.
YOU EVER GO TO THE LIBRARY THESE DAYS?
THIS SEEMS NORMAL...
...BUT SOME-THING'S... DIFFERENT.

I PROBABLY...
...WON'T BE GOING TO THE LIBRARY ANYMORE.
WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?

WHAT IF HE SAID THE SAME THING TO ME?




I-DIIING
I-DOOONG
I-DAAANG
I-DOOONG

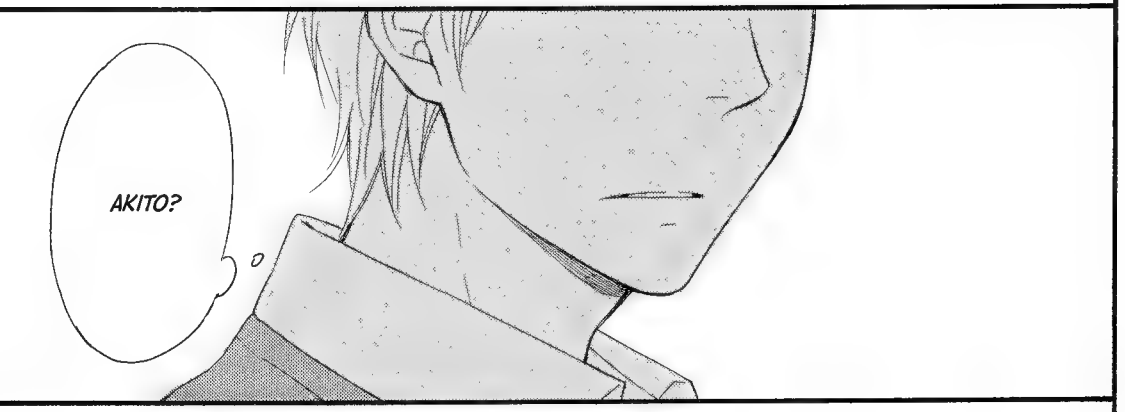
...
IN THE BEGINNING...
I GUESS EVEN IF I GO...
OH, BUT...
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE LIBRARY IN A WHILE.

...I REALLY ONLY WENT THERE TO STUDY.
OH!
HEY!
HE'S WITH A FRIEND.
MAYBE NOT NOW, THEN...

TACHIBANA!
CLASS 3-5
WHICH TACHIBANA DO YOU WANT?
UM...
HUH? OH, RIGHT. YOU'RE BOTH TACHIBANA.
UH...
YOU, AKITO!

ME?
WHAT IS IT?
WILL YOU COME WITH ME TO THE FACULTY ROOM?
UH, THE FACULTY ROOM?
HEY, DON'T WORRY.
YOU'RE NOT IN TROUBLE OR ANYTHING.
I JUST NEED TO CHECK SOMETHING WITH YOU.
HUH?
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU GUYS.
I GUESS I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
SURE. SEE YOU,
MR. AKITO TACHIBANA.

WHAT?



WHO?

HOW?

OKAY...
THIS IS UNEXPECTED.

UH...
YOU'RE HATTA...
RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH *ME?*

IS IT SOME-THING ABOUT EITO?
ME? WHAT?
YEAH. UM...
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
OH, UH... SORRY.
I JUST HAPPENED TO SPOT YOU.
EITO'S IN THE CLASSROOM.
EITO'S JUST A NICKNAME HE'S HAD FOREVER.
OH. YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
...ACTUALLY AKITO?
IS EITO'S NAME...

WELL,
ONLY 'CUZ...
HUH?
YOU REALLY DIDN'T KNOW?
WAIT.
...HE ALWAYS TELLS PEOPLE THAT RIGHT OFF THE BAT.
THANKS.
HUH... I SEE.

I...SEE.

HACHI.
HELLOOO?
HACHI?
HUH?
YOU AWAKE?
CLASS FINISHED AGES AGO.
WHAT?
HUH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
I WAS SO SLEEPY I SPACED OUT.
Haha.
ACTUALLY, YOU'VE BEEN SPACEY ALL DAY.
WHAT? REALLY?

I'VE BEEN YOUR FRIEND FOR THREE YEARS NOW.
I THINK I KNOW YOU BETTER THAN MOST.
NO WAY. I'M TOTALLY MY USUAL SELF.
YOU'RE USUALLY SO GOOD AT PRETENDING LIKE NOTHING'S WRONG.
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU AT ALL.
THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN YOU LOOK...
HOW DO I PUT THIS...
UH.
SORRY, I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU MEAN.

LIKE SOMEONE DUMPED YOU.
LIBRARY

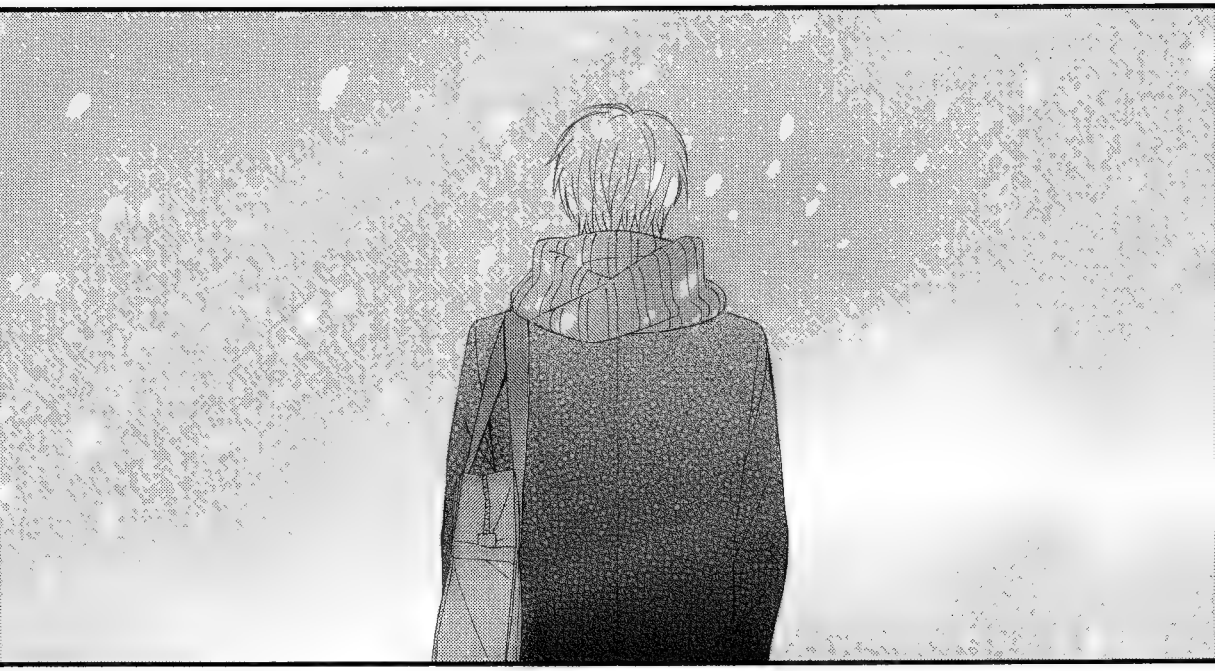
LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT SNOW.
HOW'S IT SO COLD?!
IT'S FREEZING!
SHI
VER
...
...HE ALWAYS TELLS PEOPLE THAT RIGHT OFF THE BAT."
IT WAS SO MUCH FUN.
...WE ALWAYS USED TO HEAD HOME TOGETHER.
THIS IS AROUND THE TIME...

IT'S NOT LIKE KNOWING HIS REAL NAME CHANGES WHAT I'M GOING TO CALL HIM.
HE'D GET FLUSTERED WHENEVER I TEASED HIM.
THAT FACE HE MADE THAT ONE TIME WAS PRICE-LESS...
AND IT'S NOT LIKE NOT KNOWING IT WAS A PROBLEM OR ANYTHING.
MAYBE I WAS JUST HUNGRY...
...BUT THAT PORK BUN WAS REALLY GOOD, TOO.
SO...

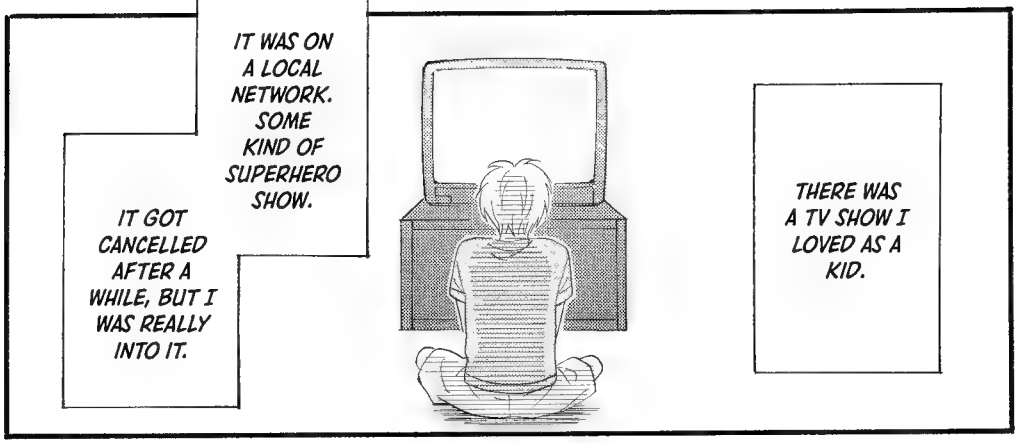
"YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE DUMPED YOU."

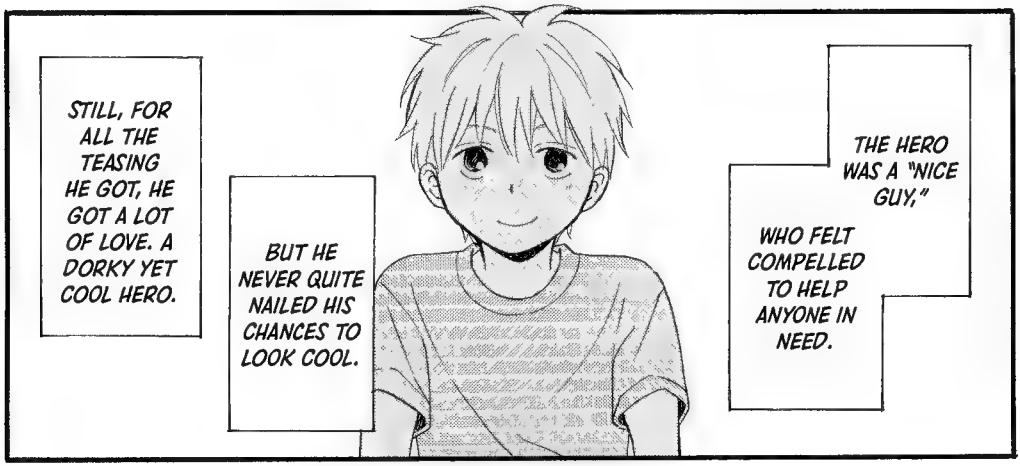
...IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE THAT I'D LOOK LIKE THAT.

IT'S REALLY SNOWING.
OH, YEAH.
THE FORECAST LAST WEEK DID SAY IT WAS GOING TO SNOW.
I'M THE ONLY ONE...
...WHO DIDN'T KNOW.
NO WONDER IT'S SO COLD.
ALL THIS TIME...



I
WAS
THE
ONLY
ONE.


THERE WAS A TV SHOW I LOVED AS A KID.
IT WAS ON A LOCAL NETWORK. SOME KIND OF SUPERHERO SHOW.
IT GOT CANCELLED AFTER A WHILE, BUT I WAS REALLY INTO IT.


THE HERO WAS A "NICE GUY," WHO FELT COMPELLED TO HELP ANYONE IN NEED.
BUT HE NEVER QUITE NAILED HIS CHANCES TO LOOK COOL.
STILL, FOR ALL THE TEASING HE GOT, HE GOT A LOT OF LOVE. A DORKY YET COOL HERO.

NUMBER CALL
Number Recall

UH?
WHAT'S UP?

YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE ITCHING TO SAY SOMETHING.
NOTHING.
REALLY, IT'S NOTHING.
I'M JUST GLAD I GOT TO SIT AT YOUR DESK BEFORE GRADUATING.
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO DO THAT.
WELL, IT'S ALL EMPTIED OUT, BUT SURE.

MAN, GRADUATION'S REALLY TOMORROW?
IT WENT BY SO FAST.
RIGHT?
I COULD'VE GONE FOR ANOTHER YEAR.
ISN'T THAT LIKE GETTING HELD BACK?
...
IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING...

UH...
YOU MEAN, LIKE—
I GUESS...
FOR MAKING MEMORIES, KIND OF?
...I WISH WE COULD'VE MET EARLIER.
I WISH WE COULD'VE SPENT MORE OF HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER.

HACHI.
HUH?

DOES THIS ADD TO YOUR MEMORIES?
...
HEY.
YOU CAN'T GET ALL EMBARRASSED WHEN YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INITIATED IT.
I liked it, but still.
I REALIZED I'M NOT COOL ENOUGH TO PULL THAT OFF.
UH, I GUESS...

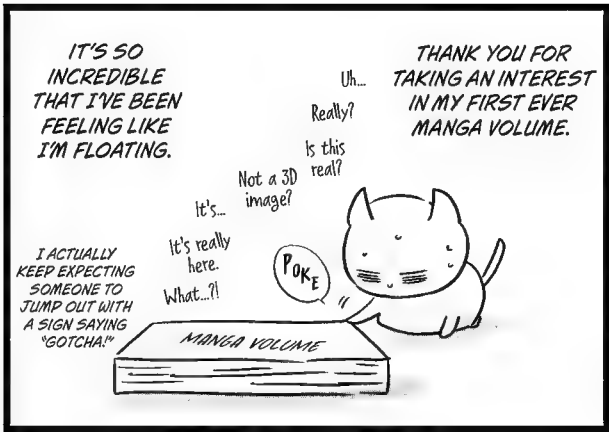
HAHA!
YOU NEVER QUITE NAIL THESE THINGS, DO YOU?
JUST THAT THE NUMBER EIGHT KEEPS POPPING UP IN OUR LIVES.
UH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...A PERSON'S TASTE DOESN'T CHANGE MUCH OVER TIME.
I GUESS...
THAT'S RIGHT.
HUH?
THE TITLE OF THAT SHOW WAS INFINITY MAN.
I SHOULD TELL HIM SOMETIME.

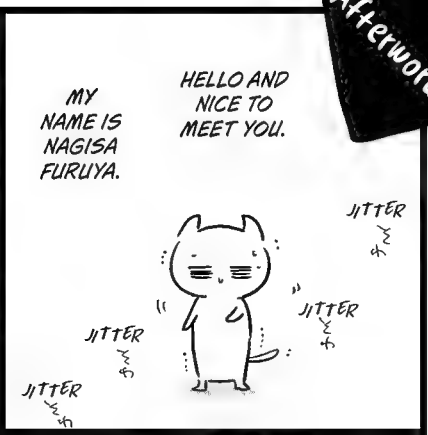
The End

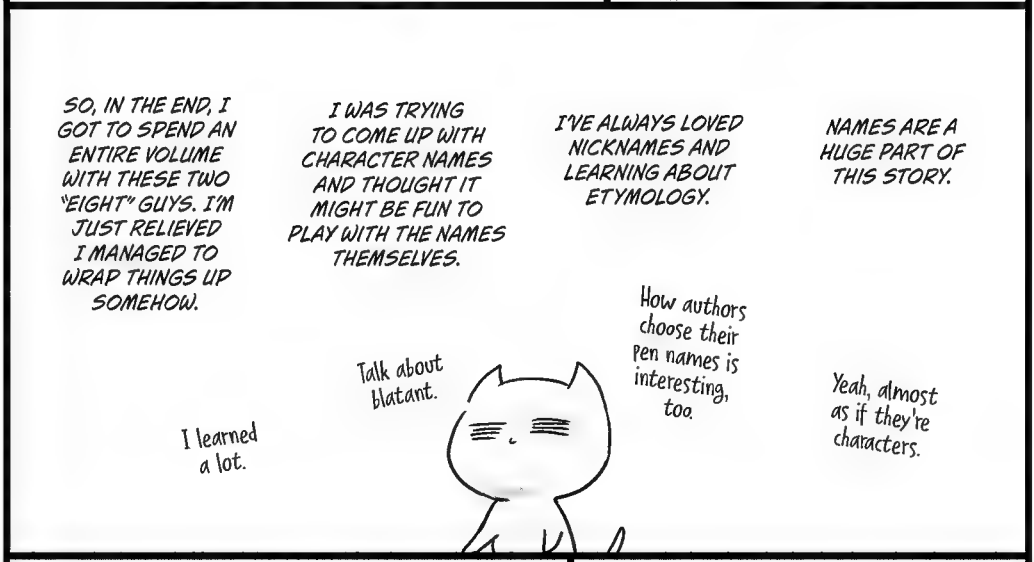
HAVING A GO AT SOLVING A RUBIK'S CUBE.
UGH, NOT A FAN.
REALLY? I THINK THEY'RE PRETTY FUN.
I DON'T GET THIS AT ALL.
I'M AMAZED HE LIKES THIS.
OH, RIGHT. HE'S A SCIENCE GUY.
S...
SORRY I MADE YOU...
...WAIT?!
THOCK
カッ
YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A SCIENCE-ORIENTED KIND OF-
GLAK
GLAK
GLAK
GLAK
ズーン
Z
Z
S
S
S
H
H
H
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT?
30 seconds
NOTHING. FORGET IT.
10.00

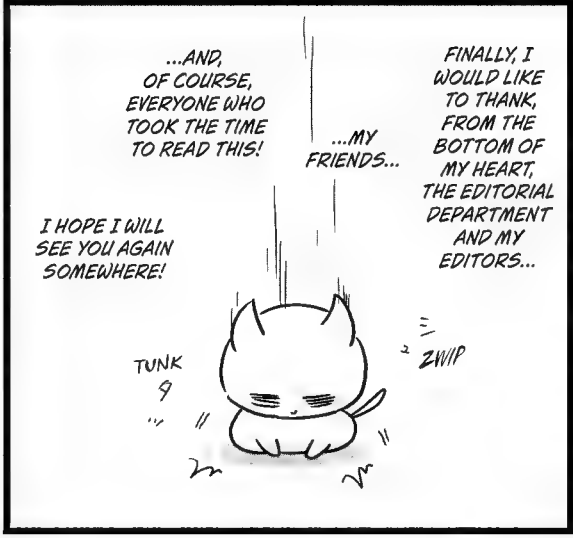
Our final contestant is Kisshy!
The ultimate juice taste test!
...
THIS GUY, YOKOI ...
...LOVES FUN MORE THAN ANY-THING.
A: VEG LIFE-STYLE.
B: ONE DAY'S WORTH OF VEGGIES.
C: FULL-O-GREENS.
D: VITA-SQUEEZE.
E: PURPLE VEGGIES. F: SALAD TO GO.
G: FURANO CARROTS.
All correct!!
H G F E D C B A
Kajiatta Shows
Films
Video games
Reading
Manga
SO HE USUALLY TRIES OUT WHATEVER GRABS HIS ATTENTION.
AS SUCH, HE HAS A BUNCH OF INTERESTS.
...!
H
Now, the last one's a doozy!
...
BUT WHEN THE OCCASIONAL BOUT OF BOREDOM STRIKES...
I KIND OF LIKE HOW YOU'RE SUCH A CONNOISSEUR, KISSHY.
WE HAAAVE A WINNER!
A MIX OF B, D, AND E!
...THIS IS WHAT ULTIMATELY HAPPENS.
GUESS I'LL GO MESS WITH EITO.

Afterword


IT'S SO INCREDIBLE THAT I'VE BEEN FEELING LIKE I'M FLOATING.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING AN INTEREST IN MY FIRST EVER MANGA VOLUME.
Uh...
Really?
Is this real?
Not a 3D image?
It's...
It's really here.
What...?!
POKE
I ACTUALLY KEEP EXPECTING SOMEONE TO JUMP OUT WITH A SIGN SAYING "GOTCHA!"
MANGA VOLUME


MY NAME IS NAGISA FURUYA.
HELLO AND NICE TO MEET YOU.
JITTER
JITTER
JITTER
JITTER


SO, IN THE END, I GOT TO SPEND AN ENTIRE VOLUME WITH THESE TWO "EIGHT" GUYS. I'M JUST RELIEVED I MANAGED TO WRAP THINGS UP SOMEHOW.
I WAS TRYING TO COME UP WITH CHARACTER NAMES AND THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE FUN TO PLAY WITH THE NAMES THEMSELVES.
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED NICKNAMES AND LEARNING ABOUT ETYMOLOGY.
NAMES ARE A HUGE PART OF THIS STORY.
I learned a lot.
Talk about blatant.
How authors choose their pen names is interesting, too.
Yeah, almost as if they're characters.


...AND, OF COURSE, EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME TO READ THIS!
...MY FRIENDS...
FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT AND MY EDITORS...
I HOPE I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN SOMEWHERE!
TUNK
ZWIP

ONE EVEN ENDED UP BEING IN EVERY CHAPTER SOMEHOW.
I LOVED THE TWO MAIN CHARACTERS, OF COURSE, BUT I PERSONALLY ALSO HAD A LOT OF FUN WORKING ON THEIR FRIENDS.
You again?

Dates of Initial Publication

[gateau Jan. 2014 issue]

Number Call: Call 1

[gateau Apr. 2014 issue]

Number Call: Call 2

[gateau Jun. 2014 issue]

Number Call: Call 3

[gateau Aug. 2014 issue]

Number Call: Call 4

[gateau Oct. 2014 issue]

Number Call: Call 5

[Bonus Chapter]

Number Recall

NAGISA FURUYA

Nice to meet you.
My hobbies are reading
and creating manga.
It's a pleasure to make
your acquaintance.

Translation Notes

"Whenever people saw my name, that's what they called me." page 4

As anyone who has studied Japanese can attest, speaking and reading Japanese can come with their own unique challenges, one of which being that there can be several different ways to read Japanese characters depending on where and how they are used, and the order in which they appear. As the reader, and later Hachi, come to learn, Eito's actual name is "Akito," as seen printed on his train pass on page 34, however it's written in such a way where its characters can be mistakenly read as "Eito." If Akito were to verbally introduce himself to someone, this wouldn't be something that a listener would know about him, so it's important to note that it's a miscommunication that arises when people see Akito's name in writing, because the characters for his name look like they should be read as "Eito."

Since it is unlikely that Akito would write his nickname (especially one that he detests so much) as his name on an exam paper, in order to preserve the way his name can be misread in the English localization, the Japanese is retained on his exam paper on page 8, which explains how Hachi misreads Akito's name as "Eito."

In the science track, page 17

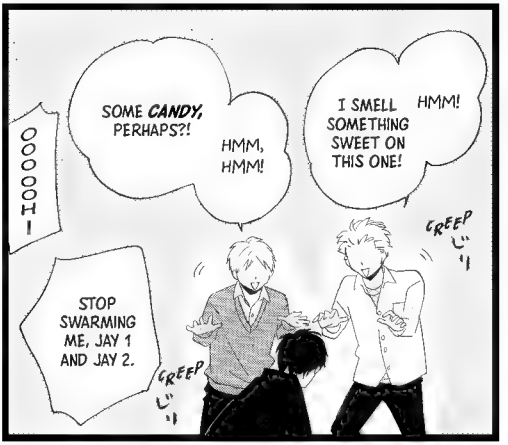
In Japanese high schools, students typically choose to follow either a science-oriented track that is heavy in the maths and sciences, or a humanities-oriented track that focuses more on literature and the humanities. The two programs offer different subjects to prepare students for what they think they might want to do postgraduation.

TOMOYA HATTA*.
HE'S IN CLASS 3-A, IN THE SCIENCE TRACK.
BIRTHDAY, OCTOBER 8TH.
LEMME SEE... HIS NICKNAME IS "HACHI."
HE'S GREAT AT DOING MATH IN HIS HEAD--

Translation Notes

Jay 1 and Jay 2, page 47

This is a reference to actor and soccer commentator Jay Kabira, who is known for his passionate commentary and signature exclamations, such as "Mumu!" (Hmm!) and "Kuuuuu!" (Oooooh!).



Akuarius, page 54

This is a reference to Aquarius, a long-selling, popular Japanese sports drink.

NUMBER CALL

Number Call

Kodansha Digital Edition

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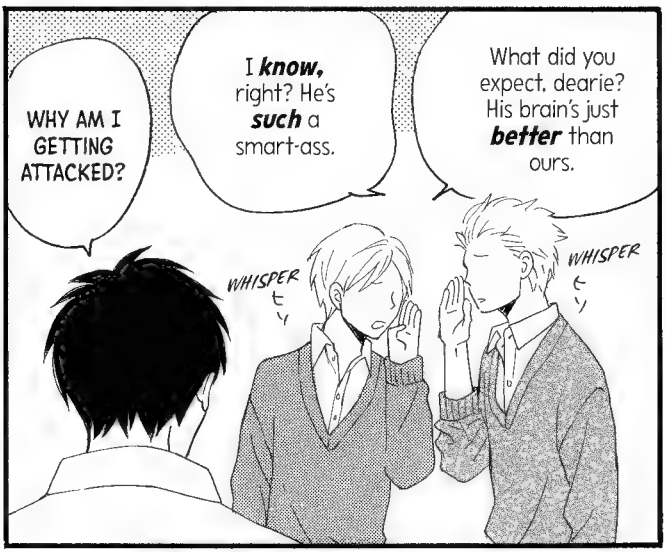
WE...
...GOT IN...
...TO COLLEGE!
WHACK
WAHOO, EITO!!
FINE, CONGRATU-LATIONS.
AND THAT HURTS!
SLAP
WAHOO, YOKOI!
SLAP
WAHOO, NISHI-TANI!

NUMBER CALL

Call 5

IT MAKES SENSE, BUT IT STILL KINDA SUCKS.
ME AND YOKOI ARE GOING TO THE SAME COLLEGE,
BUT NOT YOU, EITO.
Class 3-5

WE'VE GOT NOTHING ELSE TO WORRY ABOUT.
WELL, ANYWAY. WE'RE ALL SET FOR COLLEGE NOW.

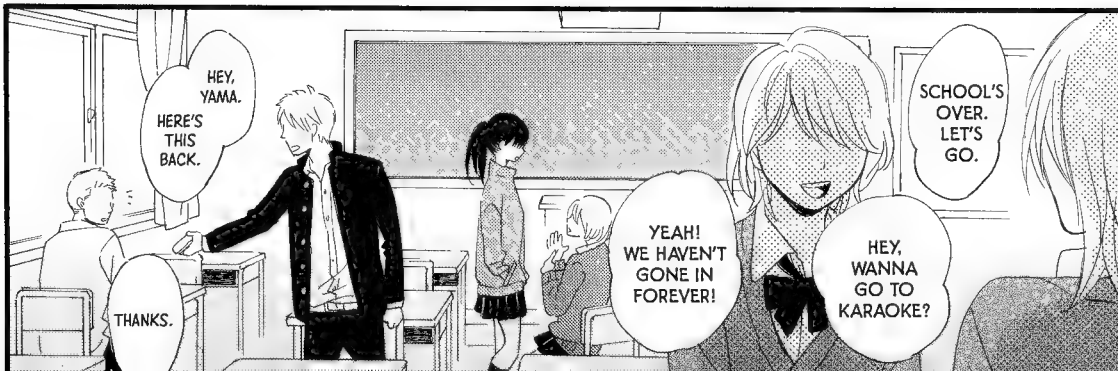

WHY AM I GETTING ATTACKED?
I ***know,*** right? He's ***such*** a smart-ass.
What did you expect, dearie? His brain's just ***better*** than ours.
WHISPER
WHISPER

COLLEGE, HUH...?

THAT'S AS VAGUE AS IT GETS.
I DUNNO. SOMETHING AWESOME!
LIKE WHAT?
LET'S ALL DO SOMETHING AT MY PLACE SOMETIME!

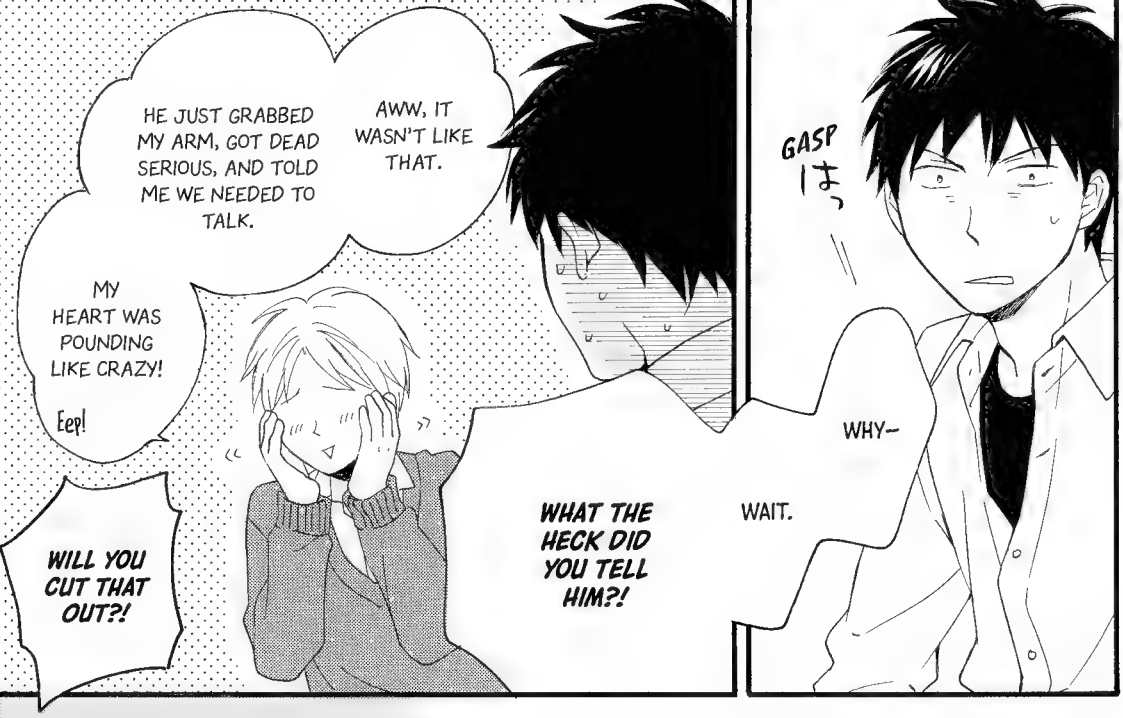
AND YET...

...I STILL THINK ABOUT HIM ALL THE TIME.



LOOK, IT'S HATTA.
OH, HEY.
THIS PAIN IN THE...
...
THAT'S IT?
SIGH
I KNOW.
LOOK, IT'S HATTA.
TWIP
...
GLUG GLUG

Y'KNOW, JUST THE OTHER DAY...
YEAH?
...
WHAT MORE IS THERE?
I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT.
I TALKED WITH HIM, JUST THE TWO OF US.
...
WHAT?


GASP
はっ
WHY—
WAIT.
WHAT THE HECK DID YOU TELL HIM?!
AWW, IT WASN'T LIKE THAT.
HE JUST GRABBED MY ARM, GOT DEAD SERIOUS, AND TOLD ME WE NEEDED TO TALK.
MY HEART WAS POUNDING LIKE CRAZY!
Eep!
WILL YOU CUT THAT OUT?!

HEY, I'M NOT LYING THOUGH.
...
トン
SO...
WHAT DID YOU TWO TALK ABOUT?

CLATTER
WELL,
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HATTA?
WHY YOU LITTLE...!
OH, I SHOULDN'T BE THE ONE TO TELL YOU *THAT.*

HUH?
MY COUSIN'S COMING OVER TODAY.
WAVE
ANYWAY,
GOTTA GO.

WHA—
YOKOI!
I HAVEN'T TOLD HIM SOMETHING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
AKITO.
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW WHAT I MEAN...

SOMETHING I HAVEN'T TOLD HIM...
THAT'S WHAT THEY TALKED ABOUT?
WHY YOKOI, THOUGH?
I "SHOULD KNOW"?
WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN?
"YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW WHAT I MEAN..."
"AKITO."
BESIDES...
WHY DID YOKOI SUDDENLY CALL ME THAT?
MY NAME...
I MEAN, HE NEVER USES...

WAIT.
HOLD ON.
MY...
...NAME?
"BUT YOURS..."
"SOUND JUST LIKE EIGHT."

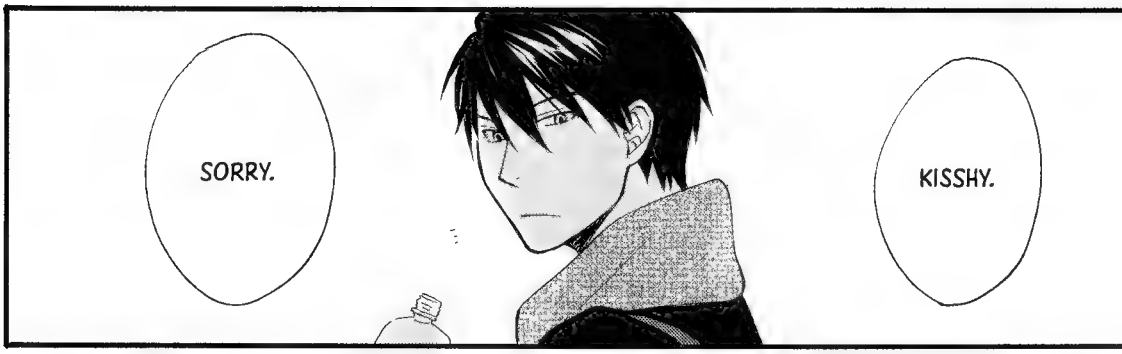
I LIKE IT SOME-TIMES.
HUH. YOU NEVER GET THAT.
CLAK

HEY, THANKS FOR WAITING.

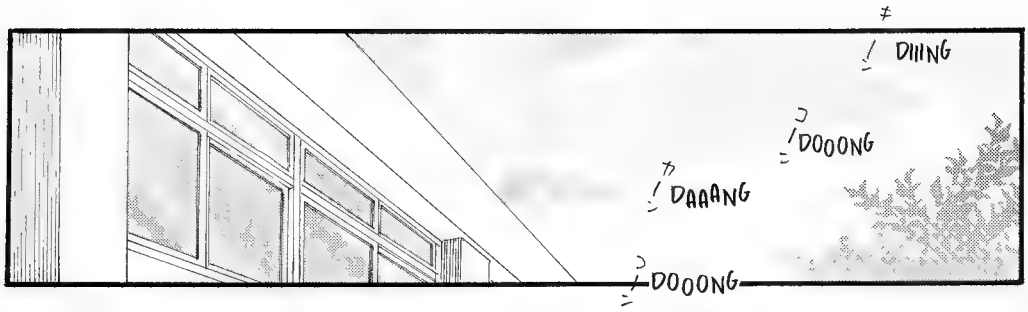
I KNOW. THIS FEELS WRONG, AND *I'M* THE ONE WHO BOUGHT IT.
THIS FEELS WEIRD. YOU'RE THE VEGGIE JUICE GUY, KISSHY.
HAHA!

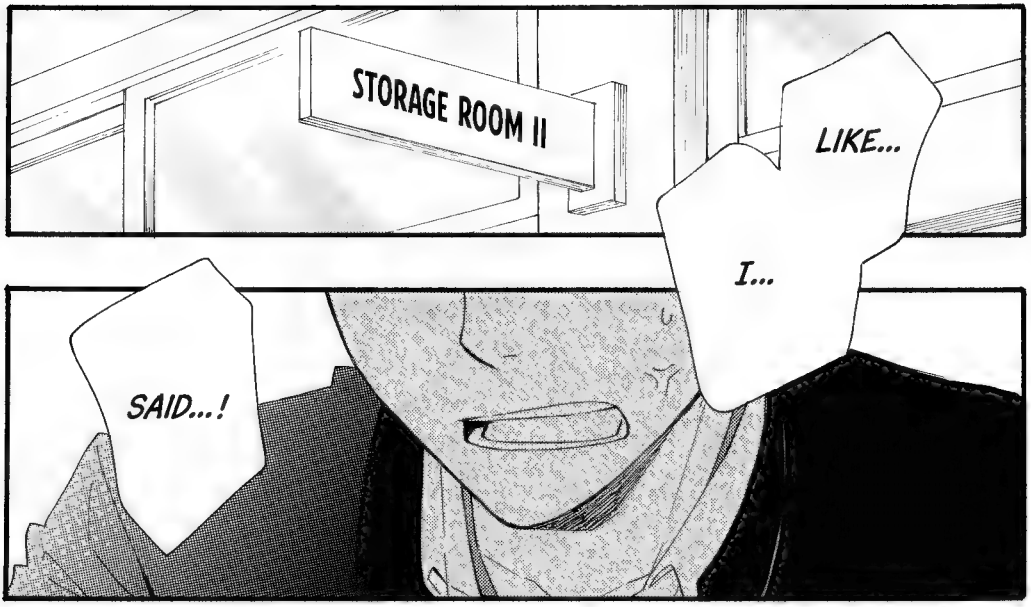
NO PROBLEM.

WE WERE TALKING ABOUT MAYBE GOING OVER TO YUTAKA'S PLACE AFTER SCHOOL TOMORROW.
YEAH?
OH, BY THE WAY...
TOMOR-ROW?
...
YUTAKA'S PLACE IS PRETTY AMAZING. HIS WHOLE FAMILY'S HIGH-TECH.
PLING♪
I BET HE JUST WANTS TO SHOW OFF SOME NEW DEVICE HE APPARENTLY GOT.
SURE, I GUESS EXAMS ARE OVER NOW.
...
TAP
TAP
TAP
A TEXT?
HUH.


SORRY.
KISSHY.

...AFTER ALL.
I CAN'T GO TOMORROW...


DIING
DOOONG
DAAANG
DOOONG


STORAGE ROOM II
LIKE...
I...
SAID...!

TACHI-BANA!
I KNOW YOU AREN'T THAT HEARTLESS!
YOU DON'T EVEN THINK THAT'S TRUE!
KR

PLEEEEEASE!
IT JUST CAME UP, SO NONE OF THE OTHER TEACHERS ARE AVAILABLE, AND IF WE DON'T CLEAN UP RIGHT NOW WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME FOR TOMORROW!!
I REALLY CAN'T, NOT TODAY. I'M SERIOUS.
FIND SOMEONE ELSE!
GRAB

YOU, TOO?
JUST GIVE IN, MAN...
HERE
RATTLE
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO CURSE YOUR LUCK THAT YOU HAPPENED BY HERE.
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
STORAGE ROOM II
OF ALL DAYS, WHY TODAY?!
...
DAMMIT.

...IT'S CHILLY.
...
Can we meet on the roof after school tomorrow? There's something I need to tell you.

SLAM!!!

HUFF
...!
HUFF
...

YOU'RE LATE.

S...
SORRY!
I MADE YOU...
THOCK
SPLAT
...WAIT?!

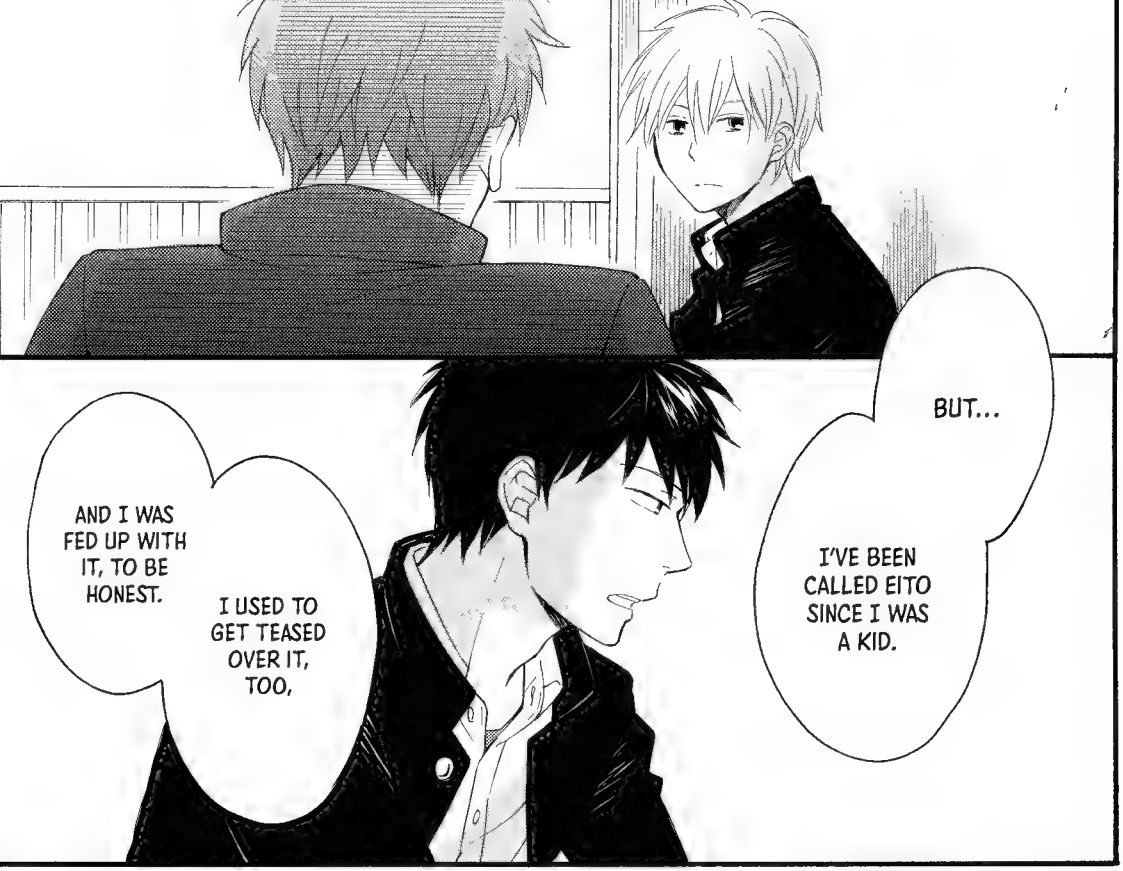
...

...

PFFT!
UHH...
THINK YOU'VE LAUGHED ENOUGH, NOW?
I...
I MEAN, YOU FINALLY SHOW UP AFTER BEING RIDICULOUSLY LATE, AND THEN YOU TRIP JUST AS YOU GET HERE!
M-MY SIDES HURT...
Hee hee!
Like a comedy bit!
...
KILL ME NOW.
AWW, JEEZ.
I WAS PRETTY NERVOUS ABOUT THIS, TOO.
BUT HOW COULD I BE, AFTER *THAT?*
...

I'M A MASSIVE DORK,
AREN'T I?
DAMMIT.
I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU, EITO.
BUT Y'KNOW...

BUT...
...I HAVE TO.
SO?
IF I TELL HIM...
...MAYBE HE'LL NEVER SMILE AT ME LIKE THIS AGAIN.
...
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL ME?
MY ACTUAL NAME...
...IS AKITO.
MY NAME.


BUT...
I'VE BEEN CALLED EITO SINCE I WAS A KID.
I USED TO GET TEASED OVER IT, TOO,
AND I WAS FED UP WITH IT, TO BE HONEST.

BUT IT FELT DIFFERENT SOMEHOW WHEN *YOU* CALLED ME THAT.
I'VE NEVER FELT THAT WAY WITH ANYONE ELSE.
USUALLY...
I TELL PEOPLE RIGHT OFF THE BAT WHEN THEY READ MY NAME WRONG.
...BUT WITH YOU, I JUST COULDN'T.
SORRY IT ENDED UP SEEMING LIKE I KEPT IT FROM YOU.

I FIGURED WE GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER THANKS TO MY NAME...
...AND THEN IT DIDN'T SEEM SO BAD ANYMORE.
SO THANKS.
I LIKE YOU, HACHI.
AND NOT AS A FRIEND, EITHER.

I...
...SAID IT.
I CAN'T LOOK AT HIM.
THAT'S FUNNY...

I CAME HERE READY TO GET REJECTED TODAY.
...HUH?
YOU KEPT AVOIDING ME, SO I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE ME ANYMORE.
UH...
THAT...
...BECAUSE OF THE EXACT OPPOSITE REASON...
...WAS...
WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D WANT ME AS A BOYFRIEND IF YOU WERE A GIRL...
I WAS SURE THAT WAS JUST RANDOM AND DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING.
BUT I FELT LIKE SOMEONE HAD JUST SMASHED ME OVER THE HEAD WITH THE OBVIOUS.
LIKE, "OH, THAT'S RIGHT, WE'RE BOTH GUYS..."

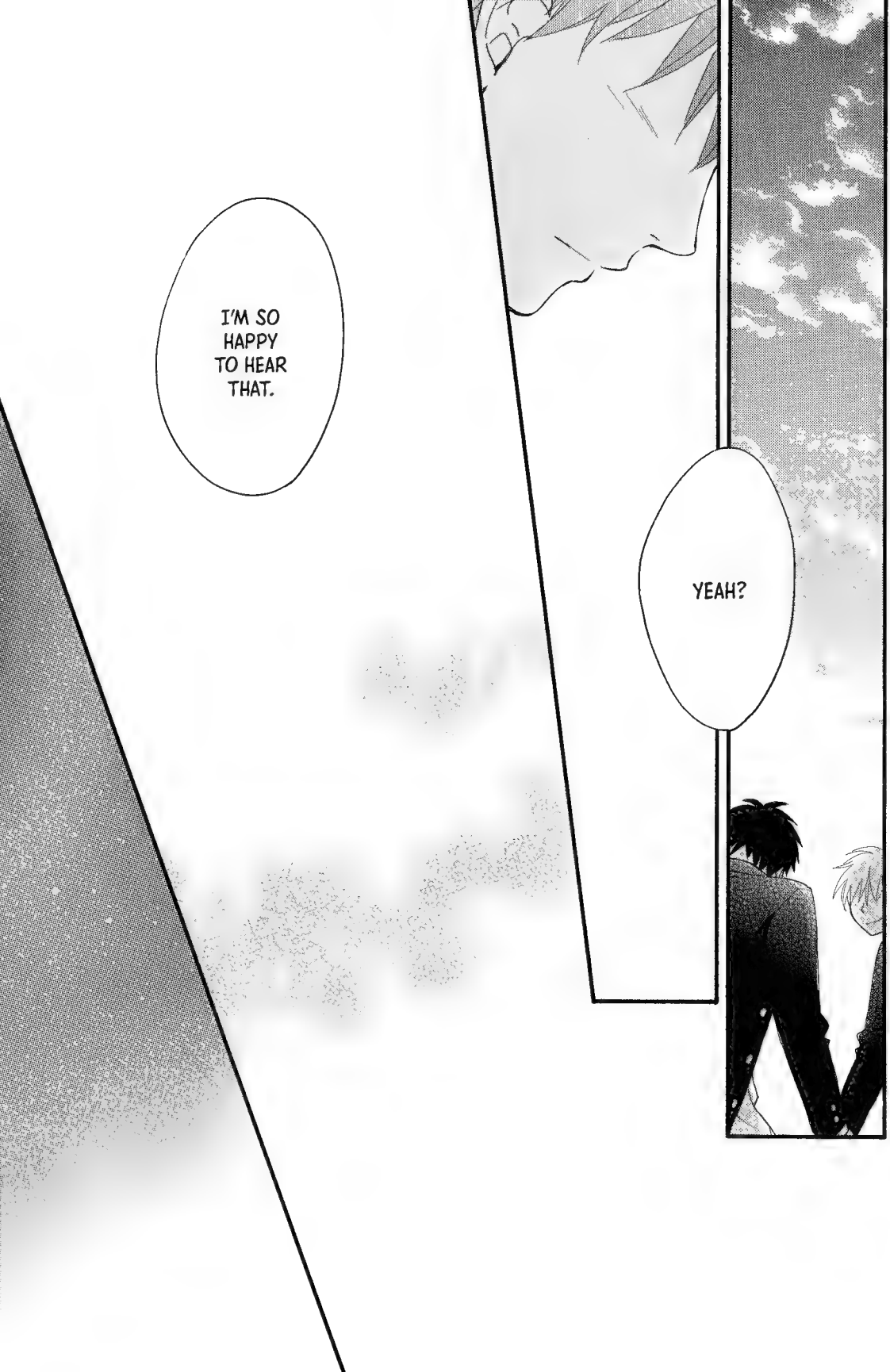
I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE YOU TROUBLE.
IT DIDN'T MATTER THAT YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT YOUR NAME.
IT WAS THAT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO *DIDN'T* KNOW.
YOU KNOW...
I DID A LOT OF THINKING.
FOR SOME REASON,
THAT REALLY GOT TO ME.

AND SO...
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY.
...AND I WAS CRUSHED THAT YOU WERE DISTANCING YOURSELF FROM ME.
I GUESS I WANTED TO BE THE ONE WHO KNEW YOU MORE THAN ANYONE...
BUT YOU'RE A GUY,
AND I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHY I FEEL THAT WAY.
YOU KNOW HOW I SAID, "IF I WERE A GIRL"?

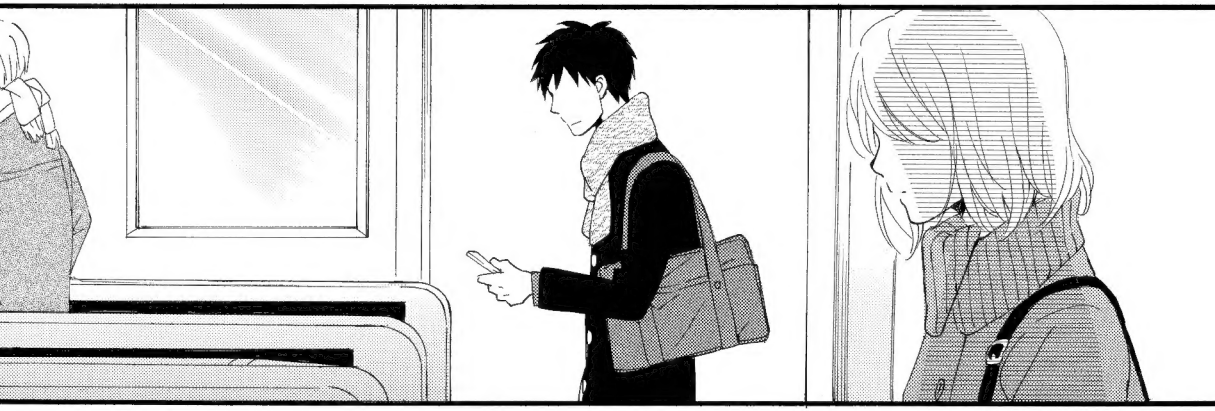
WELL, I'M NOT A GIRL...
...BUT I STILL STAND BY WHAT I SAID.

YOUR HAND'S COLD.
OH. YEAH... I'VE BEEN SITTING OUTSIDE.
EITO?
UH...
...
BUT... I'M NOT COLD ANYMORE.
SQUEEZE

I LIKE ***BOTH*** OF YOUR NAMES.
AND HEY.


I'M SO HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.
YEAH?

GUESS WE'LL ONLY GET TO TAKE THIS ROUTE HOME A FEW MORE TIMES.
YEAH.
THREE YEARS...
THAT SEEMS LIKE A LONG TIME, BUT THEY WENT BY SO FAST.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE GRADUATING SOON.
I REALLY ENJOYED HIGH SCHOOL, THOUGH.
EVERYONE WAS SO NICE.
EITO...



I...

...HAVE TWO NAMES.

BEEP

The End

NUMBER CALL